This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

The
Gordon Lester Ford
Collection
Presented by his Sons
Worthington Chauncy Ford
and
Paul Leicester Ford
to the
New York Public Library.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE,

AND TRAVELS,

IN THE SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL,

OF

SARAH STEPHENSON.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY KIMBER, CONRAD, & CO.
NO. 93, MARKET STREET,
AND NO. 170, SOUTH SECOND STREET.

1807.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
159634
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1899.

PREFACE.

THE editor of the following memoirs had nearly concluded to present them to the reader without any preface; but two reasons operate to induce him to prefix one. One is the wish of a dear and very intimate friend of the deceased, who knew her better than most persons when she was here; and who feels a few hints, respecting her and her memoirs, somewhat incumbent on her to give, now Sarah Stephenson is removed, and the memoirs about to be made public. The other motive is to give also a few hints of the editor's share in the compilation. To begin with the first, and chiefly in the words of the friend.

It seems desirable that the following accounts, left by Sarah Stephenson, of her life and religious engagements, by showing the sufficiency of that grace, by which she was what she was, may tend to the encouragement of others to walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing [namely the inward revelation of the divine will.] Conducive to this is that waiting on the Most High, to which be-

longs the promise of a renewal of strength, of running without weariness, of walking without being faint; which was much the experience of this beloved friend. And though many and deep were the baptisms, on her own, and others' account, in order that Truth might be exalted in the earth; yet the sweet, and frequent enjoyment of divine peace was her abundant reward.

May the perusal of these memoirs so affect the youth, into whose hands they may fall, with the love and admiration of virtue, heavenly virtue, Christian virtue, as to raise a heart-felt petition, similar to that which Sarah herself, when a child, was engaged to put up, when she was reading the lives, and happy conclusions of the faithful. 'Often,' said she, 'have I been led to make a pause, and crave of my heavenly Father, Be thou pleased to make me like unto these thy servants, whatever my sufferings in this life may be. If thou wilt be with me in the way that I go, give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, thou shalt be my God, and I will serve thee.' Thus making and keeping covenant in early life, she witnessed the declaration to be fulfilled, "Godliness is profitable to all things, "having the promise of the life that now is, and of "that which is to come." Frequently in the decline of life, when engaged to speak of the goodness of Israel's Shepherd, she had encouragingly to testify that he had not only, graciously fed and

clad her; but had been with her, all her life; and she earnestly desired that others, for themselves, might taste and see that the Lord is good.

As many of those to whom she has expressed this desire, will, probably, peruse her fragments, and thereby afresh recollect her labours of gospel love towards them, it may be profitable for such to examine whether, and how far, the designed purpose has been answered, as it respects each of them, individually;—whether, unhappily, the visitation of heavenly kindness, extended through her, hath been only as a morning cloud, and as the early dew, that goeth away;—or whether it has been abode under so duly, as that an account of it, and of other favours, may be finally given up with joy, and thankfulness to the Giver of every good, and perfect gift.

As to the other part, these memoirs were left in detached pieces; and consequently, though each might be lively, and therefore valuable, they did not form a satisfactory whole. This deficiency is attempted to be supplied by private information, by searching the records of meetings, and by other means, and the editor has sometimes taken the liberty of a little varying the phrase of the parts, where the narration runs in the first person; and now and then of supplying a few words. The names of the place of abode of persons incidently mentioned are

CHAP. III. 1772—1779.

Visit to Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, &c.—to Dorset, Hants, London, &c.—Dorset and Somerset—Circular Meeting—London—family visit in Wilts—Devonshire and Cornwall—indisposition, and exercise—family visits in London—in Bristol—extract from a versified address.

CHAP. IV. 1780—1781.

Visits Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire—families at Sheffield—Ackworth School—ill at Leeds—visits families there, and at Lancaster—Thomas Gawthorp—Westmoreland, Cumberland and Scotland—families there—and at Newcastle, Shields and Sunderland—Mabel Wigham—visits Durham—families at Kendal—and a second time at Lancaster—Coalbrookdale and North Wales—a meeting in a grave-yard, Builth—three of her written memorandums.

CHAP. V. 1782—1785.

Visits families at Worcester, and in her own Monthly Meeting—visits Ireland with Hannah Bevington—decease of Isaac Gray—meets with

Thomas Cash, John Pemberton, and Thomas Ross—various family visits, particularly at Cork.

CHAP. VI. 1786—1792.

Visits Hampshire, Kent, Surry, Somerset, Devon, Dorset, Cornwall—a written Soliloquy—visits the Northern and Midland counties—extract of a letter—visits families in Hants, Eastern, Northern, and Midland Counties—second family visit at Sheffield, and at Kendal—family visit at Birmingham.

CHAP. VII. 1792—1797.

Two memorandums—visits the North again—Ackworth School—Esther Tuke—Edinburgh—John Wigham—Glasgow, Cornwood, and Allandale—Meetings in Durham and Yorkshire—families at Whitby and Scarborough—York Quarterly Meeting—Deborah Townsend—families at Pickering and Hull, &c.—a third time at Lancaster—families at Liverpool—Esther Tuke near her close—families at Mansfield—Coalbrook-dale—Ann Summerland extract of a letter—visits families in some Southern and Western counties—a visit to part of the

Eastern and southern counties—families at Norwich—at Lynn, and Yarmouth—at Colchester.

CHAP. VIII. 1797—1800.

Two experiences—journey to Wales—extract of a letter—yearly meeting—three memorandums—visits Ireland again—her letter relative to that subject—short account of the journey—letter from Cork—from Castlebank—from Rathfriland—extracts from others—an experience—paper found without date.

CHAP. IX.

Visit to America—Letters—leaves home—embarks—the voyage—New York—family visit there—yellow fever—Long Island—various services—quits New York—journey to Philadelphia—family visit in Pine-Street Meeting—laid up—goes to Germantown—soon returns to the city—confined to the chamber—visit of Mehetabel Jenkins—state of mind, and expressions near the close—Her decease—abstract of a testimony, &c.—conclusion.

An Abstract of the Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of Wiltshire.

CHAP. I.

Her birth—early preservation and visitation—removed to Worcester—visit of F. Ashbridge and S. Worral—removed to the Isle of Man—her exercises there—returns to England—decease of her father—settles a while at Lancaster—first appears in the ministry at Worcester.—Welch yearly meeting—settles in Wiltshire.

SARAH STEPHENSON, some of the occurrences of whose life are related in the following pages, was born at Whitehaven, in Cumberland, in the year 1738. Her parents were Daniel and Sarah Stephenson, of whom she was the elder daughter. Her mother was the daughter of Joseph Storrs, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Of events which were her lot in her childhood and youth, of her conflicts and consolations, and her preservation from harm and evil, at those stages of life, the subsequent account is nearly in her own words.

'The remembrance of the great love and tender care, of the Shepherd of Israel, who sleepeth not by day, nor slumbereth by night, over me, from my infant days to the present time, is cause of deep admiration, reverence, and abasement of soul.

'When I was about six years of age, I had a narrow escape of being burned to death, by falling on the fire when no one else was in the room. My throat was so much burned that the surgeon said, that if I had lain a little longer, the fire would have reached the wind-pipe. This preservation, as also another, by which my soul was signally rescued from the jaws of the devourer, in very early life, I attribute only to Him, who hath, in the course of my pilgrimage, succoured me in many deep and proving seasons; and hath borne up my head as above the mighty waters, even when the waves have risen so high as to appear likely to overwhelm me. O, my soul, mayest thou never be unmindful of the Lord's unutterable goodness; but walk hum-

bly and reverently before him; who is abundant in mercy, and great loving kindness!

'It may not be improper to mention, that my father carried on a very considerable business in the mercantile way, and had gained much property. This, and living in what is called a genteel stile, and being introduced into company of high rank when very young, so pleased my natural disposition, that I began to take steps in the paths of vanity. But, whilst I was thus pursuing with eagerness, what are called by some innocent diversions, the Good Shepherd, who seeketh after those that are gone astray, looked down upon me in love, and so enamoured my soul with his beauty, that I loved to be alone with him. O, how sweet was his presence! But this lasted not long; for the enemy painted the glory of this delusive world in such pleasing colours, that I too much forsook the Prince of Peace, and proceeded still a little farther in the paths of vanity.

'My father, as I have mentioned, was trading largely; and he so extended his bu-

siness that he could not himself have the oversight of it. This was attended with losses, and many disappointments; and at length occasioned the separation of the family. My uncle, William Storrs, of Chesterfield, took me to Worcester, to my mother's sister Hannah, who was married to Samuel Corbyn of that place: and there, being afresh favoured with a precious visitation, I was mercifully previled on to close in with it.

'After I had been in that city a few months, those worthy servants of the Lord, Elizabeth Ashbridge and Sarah Worral, from America, came to my uncle's house, and, I think, staid some days. During this time, one evening, Elizabeth, in a very weighty manner, addressed me in the language of unspeakable love: remarking also, 'What a pity that child should have a rib-'bon on her head.' Her words were piercing, and deeply affected my mind. I do not know that I closed my eyes to sleep that night; and in the morning, not daring to put on my ribbon, I came down without it. Yet I had many fears, expecting to be

censured by one of the family, as having left it off to get the favour of the friends: and from this unjust ground, the enemy caused many seasons of sorrow. This was coming a little to the gate of stripping, which work went gradually forward; but great were my trials, both from within and without. Indeed my conflicts were so great, that I might say, "I ate my bread with "mourning, and mingled my drink with "tears;"—but then, O, what precious meetings I had at times! my spirit was so broken, that I could scarcely contain myself. Here were also divers weighty valuable friends, whose near sympathy with me was great, and was a comfort to me. It likewise pleased divine wisdom, while I remained at Worcester, to permit me to be attacked with a slow fever, which reduced me to such a state of weakness, that it seemed not unlikely I might sink under it. But that did not prove to be the design of unerring wisdom; but rather to make it preparatory to fresh exercise, and trial of faith. In this time of great weakness and reduction of will, my

mind was sweetly supported, and, at seasons, favoured with the overshadowing of divine love: under which my soul did humbly and thankfully rejoice.

'When I was a little recovered from this illness, a trial of a close nature was my portion. I received a letter from my father, who, in a pressing manner, requested my going home to live with my dear parents; whom I had not seen for seven years. For in my absence, they had removed, together with my sister and my youngest brother, to Douglas, in the Isle of Man: at which place were no others of our society, and the inhabitants were much strangers to it. Great were the struggles and fears that attended my poor mind, and prayer was begotten that, by obeying my natural parent, I might not offend my heavenly Father, who had so richly visited my soul. But the Lord was pleased so to open my way, that it appeared right to go; yet O, the fears that covered my mind, lest I should bring a reproach on the truth. My humble cries were put up unto him for preservation;

and he was mercifully pleased to hear, and measurably to answer, my petitions. In this humbled state I left Worcester, being favoured with the love and sympathy of many worthy friends in it and in the neighbourhood. Catherine Payton, who then lived at Dudley, was one, who wrote a sweet consolatory letter to a friend, which was given to me to peruse: in which she said, 'If she must go, let her take some Friends' 'books with her; and may she be preserved, like Lot in Sodom, a preacher of 'righteousness.'

I went on horseback to Liverpool, where I was kindly received by an agent of my father, to whom he had written to procure me a passage; and his wife, being a tender spirited religious woman, was like a mother to me. She was not of our society. I staid at Liverpool about two weeks before I could get a conveyance, in which time many friends took kind notice of me, and I contracted a near affection for some of them. I believe their minds were drawn in true love to me; and, being grounded, I trust,

on that foundation that is not to be shaken, it has stood many years, and, I hope, will remain. But this favour was the great Master's kindness, for which, with multiplied mercies, vouchsafed to me, a poor worm, may my soul reverently and devotedly follow him.

'I went on board one of the packets, with my mind humbly turned to the great Preserver of men, whose ways are in the deep, and behold in the mighty waters; but, though it was quiet, I was soon sick and went to bed, the sea being rough and the vessel leaky; and in the night there was such a storm, that it seemed likely we should be lost. The poor seamen were in great confusion, and I in the cabin alone, not expecting to see the light of another day. But O, the unutterable love of Christ, who, in this time of great danger was pleased to be near, and he kept my mind in a sweet calm, so that had he been pleased to permit the sea to be my grave, that night, I believe my spirit would have been mercifully received into everlasting rest. O my soul, mayst

thou never be unmindful of his manifold mercies and deliverances, and walk in fear and humble obedience all the remainder of thy days, that when the close approaches, thou mayst be ready to enter, with the glorious bridegroom, into the marriage chamber.

The storm abating, we were favoured to arrive, the next day, at our intended port; where I was received by my near relations with affection; but my new situation opened new trials. Here I was as one alone, and viewed myself like a sparrow upon the house-top, a pelican in the wilderness, or an owl in the desart. O, the many exercises that I passed through! the Lord only knows them; but my prayers being strong to him for preservation, he was pleased to hear my cry, and at seasons to feed and comfort my needy soul. I found my safety to depend on keeping much inward, and not mixing with the people; though some of the genteeler sort showed me marks of respect, and invited me to their houses; but I declined going, for their company was bur-

thensome to me. I used to walk in the fields alone, save my dog, who was my constant companion. O, I can feelingly sympathize with honest minds, who are remotely situated and placed as alone: and I wish also to encourage them singly and steadily to lean upon, and trust in, the God of Israel, who will not leave or forsake his poor wrestling seed; but will work deliverance for them, in the way that is best.

Hearing that two women were come to the island, who were said to be Quakers, I went to see them, in hopes of having in them companions in the right way; but, to my painful disappointment, I found them playing at cards: so I visited them no more.

Though many were the trials, yet I had, and have, cause to believe that my going to the island was right. One of these trials, which came very near to me, was this. My dear father, whom I tenderly loved, and who loved me much, requested me to do something which I felt was opposite to the cross of Christ; and there were present at the time one or two of those called gentlemen; but, not

daring to offend the precious Witness, I declined the compliance, though it was a great trial to offend my dear father. None but those alike circumstanced can tell how great is the trial in such a case. My dear parent was so displeased that I should disobey him, that it was a considerable time before he was reconciled. I endeavoured by watchful attention and obedience, to evince from what the refusal arose; and after a time his love not only returned, but I think was greater than before; so what abundant cause there is to trust in the Lord Jehovah, who has a right to be loved, honoured, and obeyed above all.

'When I had been on the island about a year and a half, my dear mother one day asked me if I should like to go and see my friends in England that summer. I then made but little answer to her kind offer; but, being deeply humbled and very desirous to be rightly directed, a great fear came over my mind, lest, by being gratified in what was so very desirable, the company of valuable friends, I should be going away from that

suffering, which possibly, was my proper allotment; and so, instead of being strengthened and comforted, should suffer loss. In this deeply tried state I remained several days; for thus, in wisdom it pleased my heavenly Father to prove me, whether I would move without his counsel or not. I supplicated on the bended knees of my mind; and sometimes of my body also; and he, in his own time, was pleased to break in upon my soul, and utter the language, Go, and I will be with thee. Then, O, the reverent thanksgiving that flowed from my poor suppliant spirit! It may be best conceived by those who have trodden a like path. I believed with my whole heart, and can say that all the promises of Adorable Goodness are indeed Yea and Amen for ever!

'After being thus favoured, I informed my dear parents, that as they were so kind as to propose my having the pleasure of visiting my friends, I should be glad to accept of it. My dear father then went with me to a vessel which was ready to sail for Liverpool; and putting me under the care of a captain of

another ship who was a passenger, we parted, and I never saw my dear parent more: for he died before I returned. Had I gone without sensibly feeling the approbation of the Redeemer of mankind, I think the trial would have been much greater than it was, though it was indeed a close one.

I arrived at Liverpool, and was kindly received by my friends, and thence went to the Northern Yearly Meeting held that year, (namely, 1762) at Bolton, in company with William Rathbone, and his sister.

There was Catherine Payton, also Samuel Fothergill, and others of the Lord's faithful servants, many of whom were affectionately kind to me. From Bolton I went to Chesterfield and to Worcester, and into Wiltshire. After having visited my relations in these places, I returned into the North, to Lancaster, where I had a letter informing me that my dear father was ill, and I set off in hopes of seeing him, but he was dead and buried before I could reach home: which was not a small trial; but in this I have had to trace deep and hidden wisdom.

'Now, to return a little to my first going home, I had cause to believe it was in right ordering, and that it was of some use to my dear sister, who was quite in the gaiety of the world; though there was no evident effect till after my father's decease. The winter coming on, we concluded to remain on the island till spring, and then we all removed to Liverpool. My youngest brother, who was, I think about ten or eleven years old, was sent to school; my sister, after a few months, went to Birmingham; and my mother and I were left. After a while, my mother inclined to give up housekeeping, and to have an apartment in the house of a valuable friend. When she was settled there, much to her own satisfaction, I went to Lancaster, to my cousin William Dillworth, who had written to request that I would come to be as one of his own children. Indeed he was a most tender father, and his daughters as my own sisters. The families also of my cousins Thomas Dillworth and John Bradford, were such families of love,

that they also seemed like so many fathers and mothers to me.

'I may now mention that while I was at Liverpool I had a prospect of the awful service of the ministry; and after being a while at Lancaster, my cousin John Bradford had a sense of it, and mentioned it in a private opportunity. But, oh, I saw myself such a poor creature, and the work so awfully great, that I did not give up to it during the two years I was there, nor until sore trials made me willing; though I was once so near obeying the heavenly call, that my hand was put on the seat before me, to help myself up upon my feet. But O, the fears which kept me back, and the bitter cups which they occasioned. I believe they would never have been my portion, had I simply followed Him who had been my support in many seasons of deep distress, and my sweet comforter in the day of trouble.

'During this exercise, a further trial attended me. I received information from Liverpool that my dear mother was so very poorly, that it was needful for me to come

speedily to her. I hastened thither accordingly, though it was pinching to me to leave my dear relations at Lancaster, and, finding her very unwell, I staid with her a considerable time; and as her complaints rather increased, my mind was deeply exercised beyond what I can well express. About this time we received a letter from our relations in Wiltshire, inviting us to go there, and hoping a journey might be of service. As my mother was willing to try, we set out and got to Worcester, where we made a little stay. Here my gracious Lord and lawgiver was pleased to lay a concern weightily upon me, to enter on that great work of the ministry; and in one of the meetings, in which were two valuable ministers, who had something very weighty to drop, and who had a sense of my state, the power of Truth was such, that I dared no longer to delay; and in awful fear stood up, having these expressions given to me, "Cry aloud, Spare "not. Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, "and show my people their transgressions, "and the house of Jacob their sins." I

was then sweetly comforted, and, being favoured with the unity of the Lord's faithful servants, it was very strengthening to my poor doubting mind.

'After staying a week or two at Worcester, my dear mother gradually getting better, we set out for Wilts, and after remaining a few weeks there, I left my mother finely recovered at my uncle John Fry's, and went to see my relations in Bristol. Here, as well as when in Wiltshire, I was at times engaged to appear in a short testimony, which seemed acceptable to Friends, and the solid part took a kind notice of me. Dear William Fry (of Bristol) was an encouraging father in the truth. While at Bristol, my mind was deeply engaged under a sense of duty, to attend the Welch Yearly Meeting, to be held at Builth (in Brecknockshire, the 5th of the 5th month, 1767.) Being young, and knowing of no friends going thither, I was much sunk; but on making my state of mind known to one or two friends, my way, as to the outward, was made easy. Catherine Payton, Rachel Wilson, and divers

others who were there, were as nursing mothers to me; but what was above all, was the presence of my dear Redeemer, enabling me to do what little service he was pleased to require: with which, I had cause to believe Friends had good unity. This was cause of humble thankfulness to the God of my life, who remains to regard the dust of Zion, and to satisfy her poor with bread. O my soul, mayst thou ever fear, and walk reverently before Him who is the dread of nations.

'I returned pretty directly from this meeting to Bristol, with the reward of sweet peace for this little service. After staying there some months, I had a letter from my uncle John Fry, requesting I would come to Sutten where he resided, my cousin Katherine (his daughter) being likely to be married. I did so; and she was married a little time after (viz. the 2d of the 10th month, 1767) to Edward Jefferys, of Whitley, near Melksham, a steady valuable friend; and I went with my cousin to her new habitation.'

CHAP. II.

Visits Cumberland—Western counties—first engaged in a family visit—goes to the men's meeting at Lavington—exercises, and relief, with reflections—death of a young child, a relation—account of meetings in Wiltshire.

IT appears by the foregoing relation, that Sarah Stephenson first appeared as a public minister in Worcester in the year 1767, and, by a comparison of dates, in the 29th year of her age. She was then a member of the Monthly Meeting of Hardshaw, in Lancashire, of which Liverpool meeting forms a part; but she was recommended the same year, by a certificate of removal, with her mother, to the Monthly Meeting of Chippingham in Wiltshire, in the compass of which was Sutton Benger, the residence, as has been said, of her uncle John Fry. Of this Monthly Meeting she had not been long a member, before she applied for its concurrence in a service which lay before her. This was doubtless her first applica-

tion of the kind, and the Meeting, adverting to what may be called the infancy of her ministry, certified that she had lately appeared in a short but lively testimony; that she was in good unity with it; and that her life and conversation corresponded with her appearance and profession. The certificate, which was granted in the third Month, 1768, was addressed to Friends of Worcester, or elsewhere, yet she has not left an account of her visit to them; but only thus relates the other part of her errand, nearly in the following words:

'In the spring, 1768,' says she, 'my mind was strongly impressed with a sense of duty, to visit the meetings in Cumberland, my native county. Accordingly I set forward and got safe to Lancaster. Thence to Carlisle, where the Yearly Meeting (for the Northern counties) was held, I had the company of my dear cousin William Dillworth, Sarah Taylor of Manchester, and Esther Tuke of York. The latter had intended after the Yearly Meeting was over, to visit the meetings in the county; and,

being informed of my prospect, kindly took me under her wing, and was indeed a tender mother in the truth. After her return home, she wrote me an instructive and affectionate letter, signifying she felt the want of my company after I had left her. This tended to strengthen my poor mind in humble hope, that my moving was in His counsel, who leaveth not his little striplings, as they confide in him alone, and keep under his holy government. I returned pretty directly home, with sweet peace of mind.'

In the year 1769, she attended the Yearly Meeting, as it should probably seem for the first time, and, by her own account, she visited meetings in Essex. She met there with tender sympathizing friends; but says she, the greatest of all favours was that of having the company of the Ancient of Days who was mercifully near to help, and afforded strength to answer his own requirings.

'In 1770, I visited, she continues, the counties of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall. One night I slept in a damp bed, which much affected my health. When we got to

Kingsbridge, (for it seems she had a companion) I was very poorly; but being at the house of William Prideaux, his wife, who I believe was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, was affectionately kind, and, being dipped into the low and closely exercised state of my mind, was made a messenger of consolation to me. She was one of those who sat much at her dear Lord and Master's feet. With him, she was frequently permitted to sup, and I believe he many times supped with her, supporting her exercised and deeply proved spirit. In this journey, He who openeth and none can shut, was many times near, to support, and abilitate to do what he was pleased to require, for which and his abundant goodness many ways, may my poor spirit ever love, fear, and obey him; for He is worthy for ever.'

For this journey, she had the certificate of Chippenham Monthly Meeting, which was granted in the eighth month, and returned in the twelfth. The year 1771 must therefore be assigned for her first employment in a service in which she was dur-

ing the remainder of her life so much engaged, namely the visiting of Friends in their families. The origin of this, she describes nearly as follows :

'A very close exercise came now on my mind in a line in which I had not been engaged. He who is pleased, in condescending love, to open, to the understandings of his children, his blessed will, through the Spirit of his dear Son Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate, was pleased to lay a concern on me to visit the families of Friends at Melksham ; a line of service then so new, and particularly so in this county, that I apprehend few, if any, could remember a visit of this kind having been paid in it. From a view of being such a poor, weak, and contemptible instrument, I frequently adopted the language of Gideon, "I am the least in my Father's house;" and, from an apprehension of great unfitness, was very desirous of being excused, endeavouring to persuade myself that the Lord would remove the concern from me ; till, in compassionate regard, he was pleased to ad-

minister sickness, and to suffer distress of mind to attend. In this time I was brought very low, and, in my own apprehension, had every symptom of a decline, except a cough; so that I looked for the messenger of death, with a desire to pay the debt due to my friends, by a sacrifice of life. But, oh, when I looked up with desire of beholding the gates of mercy open for my reception, it seemed clear to me, that if I did not obey the discovery that had been made, it would remain, as I then saw it, a total obstruction to my soul's entering into the blessed kingdom of eternal rest. This awful distressing prospect reduced all within me into resignation to his blessed will; and then the smiles of his favour arose upon my spirit, and strengthened me to move under the influence of his love. So I laid my concern before Friends, and way was opened for my moving in this weighty work; which the Lord graciously owned by his blessed Spirit from family to family; and I may thankfully acknowledge that the minds of friends were generally open to receive what I had to com-

municate, so that I had cause to bless and praise the holy name of Him who lives for ever.

'This was the beginning of a work in which my good Master has since been pleased often to employ me; which has been very arduous, through deaths often and deep baptisms; I think scarcely any service so much so; but he leadeth down to the bottom of Jordan, in order to qualify to feel the different states of individuals in families, and in this abased state to speak as the Spirit giveth utterance. And, Ah, for these humiliating labours, the reward is sure, and preciously sweet; though not always given in our own time, but in the blessed Messiah's, which is the best and right time.

'In the morning, 28th of the second month, 1771, as I was musing, a state of dejection covered my mind, so that I was fearful I should become a prey to the enemy of my soul; and was deeply humbled, and an ardent prayer was raised to the Father and Fountain of strength and wisdom for preservation. And He was pleased in love and

great condescension, to convey to my soul the sweet overshadowing power of his love, for which may all within me bow, and, in fear and reverence, bless his holy Name.'

'The Men's Monthly Meeting (for at this time we had no Women's) being to be held at Lavington, the 6th of the twelfth month 1771, a weight rested with me for some days, with an apprehension that I must attend it; but a clear sight of its being the requiring of Heaven, and the overshadowing of the divine presence and love, were witheld. Though I sought, with fervency of spirit, for divine direction it was still withheld; I believe, to try whether, like Saul, I would go forth without it; which I dared not do, so I concluded to stay at home. But about an hour before the time of setting out, it pleased infinite Goodness, in great condescension, to cover my spirit with his love, and with indubitable certainty of its being his requiring, to which all within me was subject; and

gratitude overspread my soul, humble praises ascending from my quivering lips.'

The reader may now perceive that it is not a connected narration that is to be expected. Probably the authoress of the memorandums, which are offered to his perusal, might, in making them, intend them rather as helps to her own recollection, of past instances of divine support, than as materials for a journal. The friends, however, who were most intimate with her, and who have been confirmed in their love for her memory by these memorandums, have no doubt of their being sweet and encouraging to others; and are therefore desirous, whatever might be the original design, that they may be presented to the inspection of their fellow-members in religious profession. The want of exactness in arrangement cannot now be supplied: therefore the following remarks are here introduced without the

time divine love, in an uncommon manner, covered my spirit, and boundless Goodness gave me to feel beyond what I can or dare express: being then permitted to behold her rest, and taste her joy, in unutterable bliss; which reverently bowed all within me in awful prostration and thanksgiving before Him who is glorious in holiness, and fearful in praises, and doeth wonders.'*

It may seem from the manner of her narration to visit the men-friends at the Monthly Meeting of Lavington in the Twelfth Month, 1771, that she then belonged to that meeting. She had probably then become a resident in the family of Edward Jefferys at or near Melksham, which Meeting was a part of Lavington Monthly Meeting; but she was not recommended to it by certificate, as appears by the records of Chippen-

* The reader may find something similar to this, in Mary Penington's testimony to her husband, prefixed to I. P's works.

ham Monthly Meeting, until the Third Month, 1772. There were then three Monthly Meetings in Wiltshire; but a different arrangement has since taken place; and all the meetings in the northern part of the county are united in one Monthly Meeting called Wiltshire Monthly Meeting. The Friends in the southern parts of it have been connected with those of Hampshire.

CHAP. III.

Visit to Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, &c.—to Dorset, Hants, London, &c.—Dorset and Somerset—Circular Meeting—London—family visit in Wilts—Devonshire and Cornwall—indisposition, and exercise—family visits in London—in Bristol—extract from a versified address.

IN the Fifth Month, 1772, Sarah Stephenson obtained the certificate of her Monthly Meeting, for the purpose of paying a religious visit to Friends in Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, and some adjacent counties. In this journey she had a companion, but she has omitted to mention her name. In the course of it, she was again employed in the weighty service of visiting families, namely those of Lancaster, and her relation William Dillworth of that town, a friend in the ministry already mentioned, bore her company in that engagement. She

returned her certificate in the Eleventh Month, the same year, and acknowledged that she had been favoured with divine regard in the visit, and that she had peace and satisfaction in giving herself up to the service.

The next year there are not any traces of her having been exercised in travelling, until the Eighth Month; when she laid before her Monthly Meeting her concern to visit Friends in Dorset, Hants, London, Essex, and adjacent places. Having obtained the concurrence of the Meeting, she set forward on her journey, and was soon engaged in a family visit among the friends at Shaftsbury, Dorset. Her engagements of this kind did not finish here; she was alike employed at Witham and Colchester, in Essex, and at Norwich; and she visited meetings in Dorset, part of Hants, Essex, Norfolk, and part of Suffolk. She returned by London, and through a part of Oxfordshire; and on giving up her certificate in the Third Month, 1774, expressed her great satisfaction.

In 1774 also, she accompanied Jane Ship-

ley, a friend in the ministry, of Ashmore, Dorsetshire, in a visit to Somersetshire, and part of Dorset. In the early part of 1775, she was unwell; but on reviewing her late engagements in the course of apprehended duty, she felt comfort and peace: of which she gives the following account.

'Felt some bodily complaints, which in my apprehension seemed alarming; but the covering of inexpressible sweetness was spread over my mind, with a sense of its being a taste of the reward which the Lord will give for faithfulness. Encouragement thus sprung in my soul, with hope or belief that my late engagements relative to the church did meet with divine approbation. This, succeeded with tender love to the whole race of mankind, did sweetly console my drooping spirit. Under this divine influence, if consistent with the will of my heavenly Father, it would have been comfortable to have quietly departed; but if it is his pleasure to continue my stay here a little longer, I humbly hope he will be pleased to condescend to direct my steps; and then I

ask no more but, at last, a sweet admission into rest.'

In the Ninth Month, this year, she had a certificate to attend the Circular Meeting, to be held at Coleshill, in Warwickshire. The meetings thus denominated were annually held in one of the seven counties of Warwick, Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall. They were chiefly large public meetings for worship; and largely attended by persons of other religious professions. They also drew together no small concourse of Friends. They have since been discontinued by direction of the Yearly Meeting, and the last of them was that at Gloucester in 1786.

In 1776 she again yielded to a concern to visit the meetings of Friends in the metropolis, and was at the Yearly Meeting. In London she had for a companion Esther Marshall, of Leeds, in Yorkshire; but here they parted, and Sarah, going into Essex, visited the families of the Monthly Meetings of Coggeshall and Felsted. She then returned to London, and afterwards visited

the Meetings in Hampshire; in which county she was joined by Mary Powell, of Nursted, near Devizes. About this time Elizabeth Merryweather, of Rumsey, Hants, (daughter of Samuel and Deborah Waring, of Alton) was concerned to visit the families of Friends at Fordingbridge and Ringwood, in that county, and at Poole in Dorset. Sarah found her mind engaged to join her in this visit; which she accordingly did, and afterwards returned home by way of Shaftsbury. The certificate which she had obtained for this visit, had been addressed to Friends in London and parts adjacent. On her return in the Tenth Month, she gave an account of the different parts which she had visited; and though some of them must have appeared to be rather beyond what might be called counties adjacent, her account was satisfactory to the meeting.

The year 1777 was a busy one with our industrious friend. In the First month she laid before her Monthly Meeting a concern, which although it was one of those which she esteemed arduous, did not occasion a

long journey. It was a family visit to Friends in Wilts, the county of her residence. In the Third Month she informed the meeting (the concurrence of which she had) that she had paid the visit pretty generally; and that, though the task had been laborious, it had been accompanied with a good degree of satisfaction. These are her words: and they form a phrase not uncommon among us. The critic may cavil, and call in question their accuracy; but the humble diffident servant of the Lord will still thankfully receive whatever degree of joy, He may be pleased to afford, as the reward of service, and say it is enough.

Our friend had no sooner given in her report of this visit, than she spread before the Meeting her prospect of another, which had for some time engaged her mind. This was to visit Friends in Devonshire, and the families of Friends at Plymouth, adding that she apprehended that this service would be succeeded by an engagement of duty to visit Friends in Cornwall. The meeting concurred, and she visited in her way most

of the meetings in Dorset. Arriving in Devonshire, she had Ann Byrd, of Uffculme, for a companion, and they visited the Meetings and most of the families in that county. She also had the company of this friend to the families of two of the three Monthly Meetings then in Cornwall; and in one of these, that of Catharine Phillips of Redruth, already mentioned in this narrative by the name of Catharine Payton of Dudley. In the other Monthly meeting, she went generally alone, as to an outward companion; yet, on returning her certificate, in the Tenth Month, she reverently confessed that she was not destitute of divine help, which was sufficiently afforded to enable her to pass through the laborious service. She also mentioned her engagements in Dorsetshire, together with some in the counties of Somerset and Hants.

On this journey she was favoured with the views and feelings related in the following account.

'1st of 8th Month, 1777. This morning poorly in health, having slept in a damp

bed since coming from home; and feeling myself very unwell, was led to look towards an everlasting abode. Under this view my spirit was greatly broken and tendered with the love of God, so that I felt a great willingness to leave this world, if he was graciously pleased to prepare me for his holy rest: and the view of being taken off, though far from my dear relations, did not seem hard provided I might be received by divine mercy. But though, under this awful heavenly covering, there appeared some of the true gold or right weight, in me; yet I saw there needed more of the consuming fire of God. This caused a fear, lest, when I was brought to the balance of the sanctuary I should be found wanting. But, Oh! my spirit was so inclosed in divine sweetness, that, with brokenness of heart, I was enabled to adore my Maker, and pray for the continuance of his mercy and judgment; that thereby my soul might become so refined, that when it pleased Him to say, Time here to thee must be no longer, I may not be found wanting; but, through the deep in-

working of his holy Spirit, and the abounding of his mercy, forgiveness, and great loving-kindness, through the mediation of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, may be favoured with admission into his holy spiritual kingdom, there to sing the song of the redeemed.'

In the two following years we do not find traces of any other kind of engagement, than that of visiting families. Early in 1778, she set out for London, having first obtained the consent, and the certificate of her Monthly Meeting, and was there employed in visiting the families of the Monthly Meetings of Gracechurch Street and Ratcliff. Esther Marshall, already mentioned, was her companion in these visits, and at least in the former, Deborah Townsend of London, sister to Elizabeth Merryweather, noticed in this chapter. She acknowledged on her return, that through the daily renewal of divine help, they were enabled to per-

form that laborious work; although she hinted at the deep baptisms, which fell to the lot of such as were engaged to visit the seed; because it lies low, and is much oppressed.

In the First Month, 1779, she informed her Monthly Meeting of another concern of a similar kind. This was to visit the families of Friends in the large Meeting of the city of Bristol. In this visit she had Hannah Bevington, of Worcester, for a companion. Her account at the giving back of her certificate, was that they were enabled through divine help, to perform the service to their own peace; and she added that, if they had obtained any crowns by it, they cast them down, with humble adoration, at the throne of the Almighty: to whom belongs, said she, the power, thanksgiving, and praise, now and for ever.

The reader who can duly appreciate the joy of being able to ascribe all honour and praise where alone it is due, will not think this account of a family visit, barren as it is of incident, a dry narration. Nevertheless, a

short corrected extract from a versified address, which our industrious females received, whilst engaged in their labours at Bristol, may vary the tenour of the relation; and, though it may not really enliven it for some readers, may not, probably, injure it for any.

After many lines, descriptive of the ministring friends, and of the nature of the service, it proceeds somewhat thus:

Say then, this flowing doctrine, what supplies;
What, for such arduous service qualifies?
Doth human wisdom aid you thus to teach?
No: not so high can human wisdom reach.
'Tis some degree of that celestial love,
Which drew the Saviour from the realms above,
When he fulfill'd the great and glorious plan
Of reconciling fall'n and helpless man,
That now incites you, and directs your way,
While the blest Spirit aids, from day to day;
Each state unfolds, as ye attentive wait,
And counsel opens fit for every state.
May He who bade you cultivate the soil,
With a large increase, bless your faithful toil;
And when your pious journeyings shall cease,
Bless your retirement with his heavenly peace.
For, heav'nly peace the righteous still attends:
Peace here, and peace above that never ends.

CHAP. IV.

Visits Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire—families at Sheffield—Ackworth School—ill at Leeds—visits families there, and at Lancaster—Thomas Gawthorp—Westmoreland, Cumberland and Scotland—families there—and at Newcastle, Shields and Sunderland—Mabel Wigham—visits Durham—families at Kendal—and a second time at Lancaster—Coalbrookedale and North Wales—a meeting in a grave-yard, Builth—three of her written memorandums.

THE engagements just related were those of the forepart of the respective years. Of the manner in which our friend was engaged in the latter part of each, we have no account; but we find her early in the spring of 1780, setting out, with due credentials, according to the good order of the society, on a long journey, which took up not only the remainder of that year, but much of the

next. The relation of it, for the most part in her own words, is as follows:

'I left Melksham the 14th of the Fourth month, 1780, accompanied by Jane Shipley, and went by way of Cirencester, Odington, Stow, Shipston, and Warwick, where, and at some other places, we had meetings, and reached Coventry the 24th. Next day we had a meeting there, in which Truth arose, and different states were spoken to, in a good degree of authority. In an opportunity after dinner, heavenly goodness broke in, and a sweet open time we had together; under the renewings of life, in which we [probably that company] parted. We went that afternoon to Hinkley, had a meeting there, and reached Leicester on the 26th. My mind was low, and dipped under the feeling of the oppression of the pure seed, through the prevalence of a worldly spirit. The 27th, in a meeting there, I had very close labour, but a little life arose; and after dinner, many friends being present, we had a tendering opportunity, which a little relieved my mournful spirit. The 28th we

had a meeting at Loughborough, and afterwards rode to Castle Donington, to see our dear friend, Ruth Fallows. Then we went to Nottingham, and were at the two meetings there, on First-day the 30th. In the afternoon Truth spread. We also had a tendering opportunity at John Leaver's, in the evening. The next day we went to see the widow Coulson, who seemed in a sweet tender frame, and not far from her last, and safe home. Oh, how comfortable it is to see greenness in advanced age! We had also other opportunities in friends' families to satisfaction; and in the afternoon we rode to Mansfield, twelve miles, in a very heavy rain. The 2nd of the fifth month we had a meeting there, rather a healing comfortable season, after which we went to Chesterfield, and had a meeting there on the 3d; a few not of our society attended, and considerable tenderness appeared. The 6th, we went to Highfield, about one mile from Sheffield.

'I had, for a considerable time, had a concern to visit families at Sheffield; and the weight of it increasing, I found it best to open

my concern to the elders, my companion being free to accompany me in this service. It was united with by Friends, and we began the weighty undertaking on First-day, the 8th, after the two meetings there. We had upwards of eighty sittings, besides the usual meetings, in less than three weeks. The labour was great and the baptisms many, on account of the low state of some, and rebellious disposition of others. Yet there is a faithful living remnant preserved amongst them, with whom we were at seasons refreshed, and had humbly to rejoice in the Lord's solemn house of prayer. The visit was accomplished under the covering of divine love, and we left Sheffield peaceably. May my soul ever be clothed with humble thankfulness to the God of my life, who hath mercifully regarded so poor a creature. Unto him belongeth all praise, and unto us abasement and contrition.

'From Sheffield we went to Thorn; and staid a few days to rest at the house of my companion's brother. Whilst there, there was a violent storm of thunder and lightning,

and the largest hail-stones I ever saw. It was thought some measured three inches round. The third of the sixth month we went to Pontefract, and on First-day morning were at meeting there, in which much close searching labour was bestowed on a revolting people. We left them under a belief of having faithfully discharged our duty, and went to Ackworth. We were at the afternoon and evening meetings there, owned by Him who uttered the language, "Suffer little children to come unto me." There was a beautiful flock of children, near two hundred, in very pretty order. My spirit was much concerned for their preservation, and humble cries arose to the Fountain of living mercies, to favour them with the blessing of life for evermore. The fifth in the morning we attended the committee at Ackworth school, and in the afternoon went to Barnsley, and the 6th to Burton, where many of the neighbours came to the meeting, and it was an open favoured time. The burial-ground there is said to be the first that was in the possession of friends; and to have

been given by a sober man, who had been moved with pity, on seeing a corpse indecently treated. The 7th we went to Wakefield; the meeting there was a low wading time; but I hope the states of the people were fully spoken to: in the afternoon we went to Gildersome. On the 8th, was a silent meeting; but I hope not an unprofitable one. We had the company of our dear friend Robert Walker. In the afternoon we went to John Hustler's, near Bradford, and on the 9th had a meeting at Bradford, in which Truth arose, and we parted under a degree of the Father's love. The 10th we went to Leeds, and lodged at my cousin Gervas Storr's, where I received many marks of kind attention. I was seized with a violent attack of a complaint in my stomach, which held many hours; and had not kind Providence been pleased to give a little ease, it seemed unlikely that I could have continued long; but He whose ways are ways of wonder, and unsearchable, has a right to use such means as will most effectually answer the purpose he has in view. My indisposi-

tion brought me very low, and weak, in which state I was made submissive to the requiring I felt from him to visit the families at Leeds. This service was entered upon, under the humble sense of the Master being near; who giveth to his little dependent children, a degree of that faith by which mountains are removed, and therein hope and confidence increased. My dear companion and myself went to the families without any other outward company; and in the various sittings had to travel deep, by which various states were measurably opened; and He, who remains to be the good Samaritan, was pleased to convey, through his poor unworthy instruments, the searching wine; giving to declare to some that, if they would sufficiently bear his cleansing power, the healing oil would be certainly administered.

'We had to feel for some, who, resting in their moral righteousness, were in that mournful state of luke-warmness, which is hard to reach; yet I hope some of these, at least for the present, were roused. May they not again sink into supineness. I

should not omit mentioning, that, though we had thus to be so deeply baptized for the dead, there is a faithful remnant, with whom our spirits were refreshed, being favoured to drink together of that stream that makes glad the city and heritage of God.

'We left Leeds the 10th of the Seventh month, under a thankful sense of having been in the way of our duty, enjoying that sweet reward of peace, which encourages poor travellers to journey on. We took divers meetings in our way to Lancaster; and in most or all of them we had deep travail of spirit, under a sense of luke-warmness, and a worldly spirit. But blessed be that Name who yet supports his poor depending children, who cry to him, feeling that they have no might of their own, and that without Him they can do nothing. In some of these meetings his power raised the dead, and gave us afresh humbly to bless his holy name.

'We reached Lancaster on the 20th. On the next day was the week-day meeting, in which my spirit was dipped as into the very bottom of Jordan. Under this baptism, it

was clearly opened to me that I must visit families in this place. O! how great was the exercise. My dear companion was made sensible that a fresh engagement had taken hold of my mind; but I suffered the discourager to come in, and gave Friends leave to appoint some meetings forward, thinking if the concern respecting Lancaster continued, we might return. We staid the meetings at Lancaster on First-day, in which we had an open time. Divers states were opened before me, and I was enabled to deliver what was given me, with strength, and I trust, with life. The next day, we went to Yelland, and had close labour there; then to Height. In the meeting there, but little light was to be felt. How does my spirit mourn, for the lapsed state of the church! Thence we went to Ulverstone, and the next day had a meeting at Swarthmore, which was a season of deep baptism; but the power of Truth arose, and divers states were visited, the sincere hearted encouraged, the idle warned, and an affectionate invitation given to the wandering prodigals.

It was a season of favour. The next morning we went to Hawkshead, and had a meeting. It was a low time, my mind being much depressed and under an increasing concern to visit the families at Lancaster.

We went, however, on to Kendal, and thence I wrote to my cousin William Dillworth, informing him that we could not proceed without returning to visit the families. He acquainted the elders of it, and they expressed their unity; and on First-day he mentioned it at the close of the morning meeting; which, as we were told, so affected the minds of Friends as to bring a great solemnity over them. We staid the meetings at Kendal on First-day, which were low baptizing seasons, on second day we went to Lancaster, and on third day morning entered on the arduous service before us. Deep were the baptisms, and close the labour, that were attendant, in passing along! but under all discouragements, we were helped to deal plainly, and to warn faithfully, as required. This, through divine favour, was often attended with that power

that not only chained down opposing spirits, but broke some of the visited into tears; for which we were humbly thankful to Him who has the hearts of all men in his hand. There is also a precious remnant in that place, with whom our spirits were sweetly refreshed, and from whom we received encouragement. Having had about seventy sittings we closed the service, and took leave of them, at their week-day meeting, the day following, under the tendering influence of divine love.

'We next went again to Kendal, calling by the way to see our ancient friend, Thomas Gawthorp, who was confined to his bed, by an accident. We sat by him to satisfaction. The heavenly frame of his spirit was such, as was to me truly comfortable; and a belief was fixed with me, that he would soon be removed from works, to a joyful reward. We afterwards heard that he remained about two months and then sweetly departed.

'On sixth day, the ** of Eighth month, we were at the week-day meeting at Kendal,

in which strength was given to point out the danger of a worldly spirit, even amongst the well-minded, if not guarded against. Next day we went to Moreland, and had a meeting there, in which we were led into close labour, and to give an awakening call to the lukewarm. Thence we proceeded to Penrith, Terril, Mosedale, Coldbeck, and Wigton, having a meeting at each place, the latter a favoured one, in which Truth reigned. O, how gracious and good is the Most High, to own, with his life-giving presence; in order to gather, and convince that he delights not in the death of those that die; but that he would have all to be saved! My mind was often mournful on account of the state of the church, and the secret language of my soul was, "By whom shall Jacob "arise, for he is small." We went on to Holm, Kirkbride, Moorhouse, Carlisle, Sikeside, and Solport, in which places, we had meetings.

'The 4th of the Ninth Month, we set out for Scotland; and the 6th, reached Kelso, where we had an appointed meeting on the

7th, a season owned by the Master of our assemblies, who graciously blessed the bread, and handed it forth, to the tendering of the spirits of most present before Him who can bless the provision of Zion, and satisfy her poor with bread, giving them afresh to trust in his holy name. Thence we went to Edinburgh, and were at the meetings there on First-day, a close searching time. Here I received information of the death of a dear friend, Mary Matravers, wife of John Matravers of Westbury, Wilts, which much affected my mind. The next morning we set off for the North. Having crossed Queen's Ferry, which is about two miles over, we travelled ninety miles, and got safe to Montrose, and thence to Stonehaven, where we had a favoured meeting. We had afterwards an opportunity with two youths, to whom it seemed a day of visitation: and indeed we were all tendered together, so that the current of life ran sweetly, and warning, and caution were also given. It was a season that I hope will not soon be forgotten. We parted under the baptizing

power of Truth, our own spirits being sweetly refreshed. We then went to Aberdeen and Old Meldrum. The two meetings at the latter place were large and satisfactory; many of the towns' people being there. I felt a concern to visit the families belonging to that meeting with so much weight and clearness, that I dared not omit opening the matter to Friends; who readily made way, so my dear companion and myself, accompanied by James Anderson of Kelso, entered on that service. The number of families was about twenty, part of them scattered about the country. I think our good Master was pleased to give us an evidence that the engagement was right, and was near, in his condescending love, to open the states of the different families. I was led to deal with them in much plainness, under the covering of that gathering love, which I felt mercifully extended to them. O, may the labour of the Lord's servants, many of whom have of late been sent amongst them, be as bread cast upon the waters, and profitably found after many days. I believe the good seed is

sown in many parts thereaway. Whether it may visibly flourish, that I leave; but I believe the veil of prejudice is rent in many minds. We finished the family visit, and returned to Aberdeen with the evidence of peace: Almighty goodness having been mercifully near, in a manner that reduced all within me into nothingness before him, and led into humble adoration and silent thanksgiving. O, may my soul ever live under a lively sense of his greatness, goodness, and mercy, and of my own weakness.

'After having an appointed meeting at Aberdeen, a season owned by the Master of our assemblies, we went to Ury, the place where Robert Barclay, the apologist, formerly lived. His grandson Robert Barclay, and his wife (not members of our religious society) treated us with much respect. Then we proceeded to Montrose. The road was hilly, and the wind high and cold, which made travelling fatiguing, but I could not think it hard, for as I rode along my cup did sweetly overflow, so that I was thankful I was there. May my soul never forget such sea-

sons of favour; but ever dwell where the Most High condescends to instruct his servants; namely in the humble paths of obedience: that so a happy admittance into rest, through the mercy of our dear Redeemer, may be granted, when time to me here shall be no more.

'On the First-day, we had two public meetings at Montrose, to which many of the town's people came, and behaved well. In the morning, my spirit was deeply centered, and awfully abstracted, when, after a time of solemn silence, I felt Truth lead forth to public service: in which, I think, if ever divine goodness caused the stream of the ministry to flow through me, it did so that day. The afternoon-meeting was also a season favoured by Him, who continues to own, of every nation, tongue and people, those that fear him, and work righteousness. It was a day that called for humble thankfulness to the Lord, who yet regards the dust of Zion, and satisfies her poor with bread.

'The next morning we set out for Edinburgh. In our way thither we crossed

three ferries, one of them about seven miles over. We had an old leaky boat, contrary winds, and a rough sea; so that our passage was attended with some danger; but through the preserving power of Him who formerly uttered the language of "Peace, Be still," we were favoured to get safe on shore after a passage of about three hours and a half. My dear companion, and John Rutty (a lad who rode before S. Stephenson) were very sick, so that they were not so sensible of the danger, as I was. Some of the waves were so great that it seemed as if we should be swallowed up in them. In this season of danger, an inquiry took place respecting the state of my mind, and after a little time I felt a sweet covering, which centered my spirit in resignation to the divine will: under which I could do no less than bless, and adore his holy name.

'We arrived at Edinburgh on an afternoon, the next day were at the week-day meeting, and the following day visited the families. We had close, painful labour, as there was in some a sorrowful departure

from ancient purity. Next day we reached Kelso, forty-one miles; staid the meetings on First-day: on second day set off for Newcastle, and got there on third day afternoon, about sixty-four miles. We were about a month and two days in Scotland, having travelled about five hundred miles, visited the six meetings, and about twenty-six families.

'At Newcastle, a concern to visit the families of that monthly meeting came so heavy, that we laid it before Friends at their monthly meeting, which happened that time at Shields; and we there entered on the service. Our gracious Father was pleased to furnish with strength from day to day, so that we got through there in less than a week, and left them under the feeling of peace, the evidence of having been in the way of duty. We next visited Newcastle, where are some valuable friends, with whom our spirits were many times much refreshed, and we had some favoured meetings there. The good hand is at work among the youth, and I think, fitting some for service. May

the good Shepherd preserve them, and not suffer the destroyer to mar the work; but may it go forward to his praise, and to the edification of the church; that so, judges may be restored as at the first, and counsellors as at the beginning. There are about forty families. Our dear friend Mabel Wigham, who then lived at Newcastle, told us, that when she heard of our coming, her prayer, with tears, was that we might be engaged to visit families in their monthly meeting. She is a noble warrior in the Lamb's war, and seems to be more constantly dwelling with her Master than most I ever saw. From Newcastle, we went to Sunderland, where we were deeply baptised for the dead, and, thereby I trust, fitted to labour and deal plainly; but we found a remnant, who retain their integrity. May they be preserved. There were upwards of twenty families. From Sunderland, we visited the meetings in the county of Durham. We were at one at ***** in which the lukewarm were warned, and those, in whose minds tender desires were raised, were en-

couraged to press after the further knowledge of God: whom to know, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent, is life eternal. Then we went to **** where we had a close laborious meeting: but there are a few who were contending for the faith. May they be preserved steady. We had also a meeting at *****, where some of the professors of Truth seemed hurt, by giving way to a worldly spirit. O, what can rouse some from their lethargic state. May our gracious leader be pleased to utter an effectual call; even that power by which Lazarus was raised from the dead; that they may not sleep the sleep of death. How can those who, through divine mercy, have been favoured to taste of the Word of God, and of the powers of the world to come, do less than mourn and pray for such, when admitted to the throne of grace.

'At this time the roads were bad, some bogs in the way, and much snow: which made travelling difficult, and trying to tender constitutions; but we were enabled to bear it beyond what we could expect, and got

safe to Kendal. Here I felt a necessity to open to Friends a concern, that had long dwelt with me, and many times greatly bowed my mind under that power, which baptised it into obedience to the requiring, of visiting the families of that large meeting. In low, doubting seasons, discouragements prevailed; but as I humbly kept to the gift, and trusted in the giver, strength arose, and measurably dispersed the difficulties. So, in simple obedience we proceeded in that weighty service. Our gracious Father, being near, favoured with renewed help from day to day, and, under many deep baptisms, supported our spirits, enabling us to minister, what was opened in the deeps. We had more than eighty opportunities, some of which, I trust, neither the visitors nor the visited will soon forget. May the Lord be praised, who yet condescends to make use of clay. There is a number of valuable friends, and some of the youth are promising.

'We went on to Lancaster and Preston, and at the last meeting had the company of

our friends William Rathbone of Liverpool, and William Dillworth; and there I felt an engagement to visit the families, under the influence of that love, which enableth to search the camp, and to deal plainly. Hence, visiting some other meetings in our way, we went to Liverpool. My mind was dipped very low, and, under deep baptisms, we visited the families there, in which service divine help was near, and so we left that place peacefully; yet with a mournful feeling of the state of things being more painful than some years before.

We proceeded to Warrington, Frandley, Morley, Macclesfield and Leek. At Morley we had a large exercising meeting; but I was favoured with strength to discharge my duty honestly. At Leek I parted with my companion Jane Shipley; and was joined by Martha Routh, of Manchester, in a visit to the families of Crawshawbooth, &c. Hence Martha Routh went home, to prepare for a journey with me through Wales. William Rathbone went with me to Coalbrookdale, and as I was under a concern to visit the fa-

milies of that Monthly Meeting, he felt his mind drawn to join in it. At the close of that service Martha Routh came, and we went through Wales; and felt our minds drawn to visit the families of Friends in the Northern part of the principality. I reached home, by way of Bristol, in the Fifth month, 1781.'

It does not appear that our friend kept any exact account of her journey through Wales; yet the following is probably a relation of all the occurrences in it, which she thought proper to note.

'From the New Dale we went to Welsh Pool, but I was very poorly in health, having laboured hard, and taken but little rest. I had also the most violent cough I ever remember to have had, and my mind was dipped very low; but it was kept in much patience, though the prospect of going among the Welch mountains, in so poor a state of health, was discouraging. Martha Routh was also poorly.'

It appears to have been the time of some Quarterly Meeting, held that year at Welsh

Pool, for she says that on the 28th of the Third month, the Select Meeting began at Nine, in which some close advice was dropped. At Eleven was the Meeting for worship, in which Truth arose, the gospel spring being comfortably opened, by which the seed was visited, humble minds encouraged, and the lukewarm warned, in the awful power of Truth. At One was the meeting for business, and at Four, a public meeting in the Town-hall.

'The 24th we rode twenty-four miles, and visited one family; the 30th to Tyddiny-gareg, eleven miles, and visited three families, then went to Dolgelly, one mile, and had a public meeting in the evening in the Town-hall. In this meeting Truth arose, but my mind was not clear of the people, but felt that we must have another meeting: which was a close exercise, as my companions expressed no concern of that sort. Before I gave up to mention it, I was quite ill; when on my telling the cause, they readily consented to stay, and another meeting was appointed, to begin at Nine on First day morning.

We had a very solid, favoured meeting, after which my mind was much relieved. This town is nearly surrounded by mountains, one of which, I was told is four miles to the top.'

'This must be spoken of the ascending road from Dolgelly. The mountain in question is probably Cader Idris, the perpendicular height of which is about two thousand eight hundred feet from the level of the sea. The last named places are in Merionethshire.'

'Those who have not been in a mountainous country, I think, "continues Sarah," can scarcely conceive the awful appearance which these prodigious hills make. To think of our fellow creatures being scattered among them led me to contemplate on the greatness and goodness of God who careth for the workmanship of his holy hand: not only giving them food, but contentment, and visiting with his life-giving presence the greatest of all blessings.

'After dinner we rode to Lewin Dee (qu. Llwyn du, on the coast) where a meeting

was appointed to begin at Five o'clock. The people collected soon after we got there, and life seemed to spread on our sitting down; so that I hope it was to many a time of advantage. The third of the Fourth month we went to Machynlleth, where we were desirous of having a meeting, though no friends lived there, and accordingly one was appointed for the next morning at Nine o'clock, to which many people came. It was a time in which, I think, the Gospel power was felt, and we left the place very peaceful. We rode that afternoon to Esgair goch, and visited the few families belonging to that meeting, and had also a public meeting with them to satisfaction. It was here that that worthy servant and minister of Jesus Christ, John Goodwin lived; but now the state of things in that principality is very low. We did nearly sympathize with the few concerned ones, for they laboured under many disadvantages.

'At Esgair goch a cloud of distress covered my spirit, but the cause, why I thus partook of the wormwood and the gall, was

hidden from me. In this deep baptism, I felt it was a taste of what our Lord drank so very deeply of, and I found him near in this suffering state; not to take the cup from me, but to make my spirit the more willing to drink it. O, my soul, mayest thou love it; for herein standeth thy fellowship with God, pure obedience in all things.

'We next rode eight miles to Llanidloes, where my dear companion was so ill that her recovery seemed very doubtful. She was not at all anxious respecting it; but to me the prospect of losing my beloved companion, in that lonely spot, seemed a closer trial than that of laying down my own life. But one morning, as I sat greatly exercised before Him who raised Lazarus from the grave, I was led into an awful heavenly sweetness, in which I saw, in that light that is unchangeable, that she would recover: which greatly consolated my distressed spirit.'

The three last named places are in Montgomeryshire. From Llanidloes to Builth, in Brecknockshire, the distance is not more than an easy day's journey; and the latter

town about seventy miles from Bristol, a journey of a few days might bring her into the neighbourhood of her own habitation. William Rathbone had kept them company as far as Llaindloes; and it does not appear that they visited any meeting in South Wales.

That at Builth was a public appointed one: of which Sarah gives nearly the following account:

'The 6th of the Fifth Month we had a meeting at Builth, not in a meeting-house, but in a very convenient grave-yard. Notice having been given in the neighbourhood some days before, many well-behaved people came. The ground was smooth, and of a gradual descent. At the upper end was a stone seat all the way along, and about the middle of it hung ivy like a canopy, under which we sat. On both sides were stone seats, which were filled by some of the people; while others sat on the grass. The weather was very favourable, and the beholding of the gravity of the people, and the feeling of the solemnity that covered the as-

sembly, bowed our spirits, and led humbly to implore Him that had compassion on the multitude formerly, and would not send them empty away, that he would be pleased to break the bread of life amongst us, and bless it.

'A season of favour it was; for the Lord, who hears the cry of his suppliant children, was graciously pleased to hear, and answer our request; for which our spirits were awfully bowed, and did bless his holy name, who is worthy for ever. When the meeting was over, a solid elderly man came to us and said—This has been a glorious day. Indeed the minds of many of them were affected. We recommended them carefully and quietly to attend to what they had felt. May it please the Lord, in the aboundings of his love and mercy, so to leaven them into his nature that they may be sanctified throughout, in body, soul, and spirit.'

She delivered up her certificate in the Sixth Month, 1781, when, as she had done on a former occasion, she acknowledged the support which she had experienced, and des-

cribed the services in which she had been engaged. She particularly remarked, that she firmly believed that the seed of God was sown in Scotland; and said that her returning through Wales, and visiting Friends in their cottages among the mountains, were as a cordial in her remembrance.

It was probably soon after her return from this long journey, that she wrote the following memorandum:

'1781.—As my soul was led into awful stillness and gathered into abasement, I was favoured to feel that in the quiet attentive state, the Lord is pleased to prepare the soul to hear the language which was proclaimed by the angel, "Worship God;"—awfully leading under the covering of the Holy Spirit, to adore and worship Him, whose glory the heaven of heavens cannot contain.'

The two following pieces will close all that remains to be added, respecting the exercises of this devoted servant, in the year 1781.

'Eleventh Month, 1781. My mind was stripped, and dipped exceedingly low for

many days: so that all divine comfort seemed to have left me. Under this proving dispensation I was tempted to believe that I was cast off; and as this belief prevailed, the clouds of darkness and distress increased. I then thought I should be thankful to be removed, if I might but die like the beasts of the field. But whilst under this distress, sitting still one evening, the Lord was pleased to cause a perfect calm to cover my mind, and brought before me his wonderful preservations and deliverances, one after another, from my childhood to that present time, as clearly as if written in large characters: at the beholding of which my soul was humbled, and faith in the mercy, goodness, and forgiveness of God, began to spring up in my soul; and so, mercifully caused the clouds of despair to disperse. I believe my being thus led to feel a state wholly stripped of hope in the mercy of God, was in order to lead me into tender sympathy with poor souls thus tried.'

'Twelfth Month, 1781. O, that pure stream which is clear as crystal, proceeding

from the throne of God, which impregnates the soul with its precious virtue, by which it becomes heavenly, and, in time, like the king's daughter, "all glorious within!" Thus the soul, being espoused to Christ, how glorious the union! Happy in time, and unspeakably glorious in eternity, where the heavenly host sing, glory and honour, riches and power, to the Lord God and the Lamb, for evermore, world without end!

CHAP. V.

Visits families at Worcester, and in her own Monthly Meeting—visits Ireland with Hannah Bevington—decease of Isaac Gray—meets with Thomas Cash, John Pemberton, and Thomas Ross—various family visits, particularly at Cork.

THE occurrences of the year 1782 and 1783, of which any account is preserved, are few. Early in the former year, our friend visited the families of Friends in Worcester, and was afterwards engaged in a like service to those of her own Monthly Meeting. In the latter she had Mary Powel for a companion: who was also with her in 1783, on the same service in some other parts of Wiltshire, particularly at Salisbury. The same year, Sarah paid a similar visit to the Friends of some meetings in Somersetshire and Gloucestershire. In these visits,

she had the company of her sister, Hannah Stephenson.

Hitherto, the travels of Sarah Stephenson, though extensive, had been confined to Great Britain; unless we except her residence, while young in the Isle of Man, which was not on an errand similar to those which occupied her riper years. But in the spring of 1784, she crossed the sea, and entered on a visit to Friends in Ireland: of which visit she has left an account, which is given to the reader in the following pages, nearly in her own words. Some of it appears to have been written almost at the time, when the circumstances took place which it relates; and we may be almost present witnesses of the expression of her feelings.

'On the 9th of the Second Month, 1784, I laid before Friends, at our Monthly Meeting held at Melksham, a concern which I felt for going to Ireland; which being united with, a certificate was prepared, and signed at the following Monthly Meeting, held at Devizes, and also at the Quarterly Meeting the 22d of the Third Month.

'I left Melksham the 14th of the Fourth Month, and went by way of Hampton, Tewksbury, Worcester, Shrewsbury, having divers favoured tendering opportunities at divers of these places, and reached Holyhead the 23d. I felt many discouragings and buffetings at times; but my gracious Preserver rebuked the destroyer, or I fear I should have been overset. The 24th, the wind being contrary, no packets have sailed to-day. I have remembered the great attainment of the apostle, respecting his being in all states content. May my mind be centered in the Divine Will, and in that quietly rest.

'My companion Hannah Bevington, feeling a desire to have an opportunity with the inhabitants, and knowing of no convenient place in the town, we walked to the Steeple-house yard; and when the people came out, we stood by the Market-cross, a spot that commanded them in general as they passed, and I think the power of truth was sensibly felt to be extended towards them. As soon as we felt ourselves at liberty, we withdrew,

and returned to our inn. The wind soon became favourable, and we sailed about three in the afternoon, and had a fine passage, but I was very sick, yet favoured with quiet resignation. The tide did not serve for the packet to go over the bar; so we got into a wherry to go up the river, about five miles. It rained very hard, and I was very wet, and took a severe cold, which confined me several days. We arrived at Dublin the 26th, after a passage of about twenty-three hours. I was confined by indisposition until the 2d of the Fifth Month, at the house of my kind friend Joseph Williams, and then went to meeting at Sycamore-Alley, and felt strength to deliver what seemed my duty. I think it was a favoured meeting. It was the time of the half year's meeting. It began on the 3d. I attended the different sittings, which concluded the 6th. On the 7th, we set off for the North, and arrived on the 8th at Rathfriland, fifty-seven Irish miles. On the 9th was at meeting in the morning, in which the states of some were opened and spoken to;

and another meeting in the afternoon, a season in which Truth spread, for which my soul doth bless His holy name who is worthy for ever. The 11th we had a wading meeting at Moyallen; but were enabled to leave with the people what seemed our duty. On the 12th I was so unwell, that my companion went without me to a meeting appointed at Lurgan. I believe my indisposition was permitted in best wisdom, for I was not clear of Moyallen; and the 13th being the week-day meeting there, we attended it. It was large, and a favoured time, in which I was set at liberty and felt very peaceful. We had also other opportunities more select, and also one at our lodgings, in which condescending ancient goodness covered our spirits, and we were favoured with the droppings of celestial rain. The 16th we proceeded to Lurgan, and had a meeting there, and so on to Ballyhagen, Lisburne, and other places in that quarter. On the 20th, at a meeting at Lisburne, where my mind was led into an earnest travail, and it was mercifully regarded by our

gracious Master, who moved my spirit in his love, to stand up with the language of Christ to his immediate followers, "Children have ye any meat?" Truth spread, and led to deliver close things, but under the tenders of softening love, which seemed to melt many minds, and much contrited my spirit before Him who condescends to make use of mean and contemptible instruments. We went to Hillsborough, Antrim, and Ballymena, and had a meeting in each place, besides other opportunities, in which best help was near, enabling us to discharge our duty. As we were on the way to Ballinacree, we were met by a friend, who came to inform us of the death of our dear friend Isaac Gray, from England, whom we had met with at Lisburne the 18th. The sudden removal of this, our dear friend, greatly affected my companion and myself. He was to be buried the next day at Charlemount. The morning of the day on which he died, he complained of feeling unwell, with pain in his breast or stomach, for which something being given him, he desired his

companion and friends to go to meeting. The friend who staid to wait on him, observing him lie still, supposed he was asleep, so his companion, for fear of waking him, did not go immediately into the room after meeting, but took a little walk into the fields. On his return, he was met by a friend who told him that dear Isaac was dead, and, it was supposed, had been so for some time.

'On the 27th, we rode to Colraine, and had a meeting there; and on the 28th to Toberhead, where was a large meeting, mostly of other societies. It was an open time, and I hope satisfactory. We were at our valuable friend Jarvis Johnson's, where Isaac Gray had died the second day before. The being there so soon after his death did afresh much affect our minds. May we learn, under proving dispensations to say, Not our wills, but thine, O Lord, be done. We afterwards went to Dungannon, and from thence to Ballyhagen. Thomas Cash of Morley, in Cheshire, who had been Isaac Gray's companion, was with us there at meeting, a season owned by the Master.

'The first of the Sixth Month, my mind was very low. May I profit by every dispensation permitted to attend; for indeed varied and deep are the provings of the poor servants in this day of deep degeneracy. After meetings in some other places, we attended the Province Meeting, held at Ballyhagen. My mind at this time was much impressed with a sense of its being required of us to visit the families of Friends belonging to Grange Meeting; but I was desirous to weigh it still further. So we went to some other meetings, but I could not be easy to proceed far, any other way; therefore returned to Grange. We attended the Week-day meeting the 9th, at the close of which, our concern was mentioned, and way was made for our accomplishing the visit. We began the arduous service the 10th, and I was favoured with an evidence of being in the way of my duty. O, holy Father, keep my soul stayed on thee, and permit nothing to draw my attention from thee; but be pleased to enable me to obey every manifestation of duty. And O, my soul, mayst thou be

instructed, and, whilst endeavouring to dress the vineyards of others, not to leave thy own undressed. The 13th, sweetly refreshed in solemn silence. The 14th, to-day have had several seasons of close labour and deep exercise; under which my spirit mourns for the whole, unsafe state of some, and the insensibility of others, desiring all self-righteousness may be stripped off, and their minds brought into that state of self-abasement, with which the Most High is well pleased: that so sweet life in Him may be experienced. The 20th, First-day, a very solemn meeting held in silence. My mind was opened to view the beauty, necessity, and excellency of knowing every thought brought into the obedience of Christ.

At Dungannon, also, we visited families, and left it with humble thankfulness, as believing we had been enabled to get safe through that anxious service, under which we had many close baptisms; but we were favoured to feel peace as the reward of obedience in discharging that duty which we believed our gracious leader required of us.

We then went to Oldcastle, Moat, and Ballymurry.

'The 4th of the Seventh Month, and the first day of the week, at meeting this morning, my spirit centered in awful prostration, and travail for the people, and I felt the gentle descendings of best love, accompanied with a draft to stand upon my feet: and as truth opened my way, I spoke, and matter was given, under the awful guidance of that Spirit which not only leads safely forth, but also back to the tent, with the reward of peace. O my God, be pleased to continue the guidance of thy Holy Spirit, and keep me as in the hollow of thy hand, that I may be preserved in the way of thy requirings. The 6th, I was at a meeting at Moat, where we had the company of our dear friends, John Pemberton, from Philadelphia, and Thomas Cash. It was a season owned by our gracious leader. The 8th, at a meeting at Rathangan. Part of the time there was a painful sensation occasioned by the draft of some after words. It tended to close our way, but after a while I felt the moving

of Truth to public labour, and in simplicity stood up. After dropping a few words, the power arose beyond what I have often known, through me, a poor creature. The 9th, was a meeting at Timahoe, and we visited some families, and on the 11th, attended a meeting at Edenderry, a season of deep travail; but life arose, and for a time dispelled the clouds, and many were much broken. Close things were dropped under the covering of gospel love, and I hope it was a good meeting. From thence we went to Ballitore. As I rode along, my mind was greatly stripped, and very poor; and, feeling the low state of things, was much dejected by it. But O, my gracious Father, be pleased not to leave me, nor permit me to grow weary of suffering; but enable me to follow thee in the way of regeneration. We lodged at Richard Shackleton's, and my mind became impressed with its being our duty to visit the families: which we were enabled to enter upon under an awful sweet covering of our heavenly Father's love, and in an humbling sense of our own weakness.

mountains for shelter, when the dread hand-writing may be seen in the wall. The few mourners and sorrowful spirits were sympathized with and encouraged, the slothful were called to arouse from their states of false ease, and I hope it was a favoured meeting. The 23d my way was closed up at Mountmelick meeting, by feeling a strong draft in the people for words, and at the close I felt it my place to tell them that I believed they had prevented the handing forth of spiritual bread, by not attending to the language that early saluted my mind in that meeting; which was, study to be quiet, and mind thy own business: to which I had endeavoured to attend.

'The 29th, we went to Moat, and the 30th, entered on that weighty service of visiting families there. Some seasons were much owned by our gracious leader, tending to encourage us, and to confirm the belief of being in the way of our dear Master's requirings. From Moat we went to some adjacent meetings and back again, and visited some families at Athlone and Ballimurry. We sat

with several persons who had been disunited for misconduct. After one opportunity, one of the family informed us how his mind had been visited in a very extraordinary manner, and he was thoughtful whether it might not be best to tell the people, thinking it might be of service; but it seemed clear to me that this was an artifice of the enemy, in order to draw him from his own work, and proper business; and I strongly advised him to keep in the stillness, and feel deep for the pure life, that therein he might grow. He received the advice in love, in which we parted. The Province meeting began on the 14th, held at Moat, in which my mind was much exercised, and it was a favoured time; but I was weightily impressed with a requiring to return to Oldcastle, and visit the few families there, of which I had informed my dear companion some days before. Some friends were going that way, with whom we concluded to go, but my mind was dipped very low under discouragement. A valuable friend who was there, understanding the concern I was under, came and saluted

159634

me with these words: 'I am glad that thou 'art willing to do whatever thy Master bid-deth thee.' He was a man of sound judgment and deep in spirit, and there was such weight and sweetness accompanying the words, that they entered my soul, and were as a cordial. We set out the 15th and were that evening at an inn, with several friends in company. While supper was preparing, our spirits became deeply centered in sweet baptizing silence, under such a covering of the Father's uniting love, as very much contrited our spirits, and made us near to each other in the covenant of love and life. The next morning we went to Oldcastle, and had cause to believe that our return was in the ordering of divine wisdom: whose right it is to dispose of his servants, as it pleaseth him. We afterwards returned to Moat, and at a week-day meeting, I took a solemn leave of Friends there, reviving in their remembrance that they had been invited, some of them in the most persuasive language, to quit the paths of error, and to obey Christ; but observing that, if such would not be pre-

vailed on, their blood would be upon their own heads. It was a tendering season to some minds present.

'We then proceeded to some other meetings. We sat a considerable time in silence, the 20th, at Kilconnermore, and in great poverty. Yet it seemed my place to stand up, though in so much weakness, that I thought I had hardly strength sufficient to do so; but I obeyed the secret motion of Truth; and when on my feet had to speak on the advantage of knowing Jerusalem to be a quiet habitation, a place of succour in the day of storm, when we should be searched, as with candles: and though things opened pretty close, yet it was under the power of Truth and love, so that, if I felt aright, Truth arose into a good degree of dominion, and great tenderness there was in the meeting. O, my soul, thou hadst indeed much cause to believe in the sufficiency of that power, that is the resurrection and the life. We also went to see five children that were orphans. They were so tendered in the opportunity we had with them, that they could

not forbear weeping aloud. The dear children were recommended to read the scriptures, and the blessing attendant on obedience [to the Lord's will] was set forth to them. O, may the visitors and visited remember, and profit by such condescending goodness, such favour from adorable mercy. The 25th, I was at a meeting at Knock, where I stood up in much fear, and awful dread, under the feeling of different states, and of a spirit that like Goliah defied the armies of Israel's God; but gracious Goodness clothed me with strength to attack it, and by his power it seemed, for the present, brought under, for an awful covering was over the meeting.

'The 27th we went to Limerick. The 29th being First-day, we sat two meetings there. My spirit was sunk very low, and stripped; but much exercised under an apprehension of its being required of me to visit the families. I informed my companion how it was with me, of which she had a sense from the dipped state of my mind. The 31st being the day of the Monthly Meeting, we

imparted the concern to Friends, and as they united with it, we proceeded on the visit, and by the next Second-day accomplished it. There were about 24 families. My spirit was much exercised in this service; but renewed ability to labour was afforded, and different states I hope were rightly opened. On the Seventh-day came Thomas Ross from America, and we had his company on the First-day, at the two meetings, also at one in the evening at Thomas Mark's. He is a sweet spirited man, much devoted to his Master's use. We left Limerick the 6th of the Ninth Month in company with him, and took one meeting in the way to Clonmel, in which my mind was bent, in near affection, towards the dear youth. At a meeting at Clonmel, dear Thomas Ross was much favoured in public. My mouth was not opened, but I was led to visit many in silence; and a humbling prospect was afresh opened, respecting the visiting of the families there, of which I had a view when at home; but as the time of the Quarterly Meeting at Waterford was nigh, we went

thither; where also were John Pemberton, Thomas Cash, and Thomas Ross.

'Though the Lord at this time was pleased to employ me in public, and also in more select companies, yet deep were the conflicts of my spirit, both on the rode to Waterford, and when there, until I gave up to mention a concern, which also I had felt when at my own home, to visit Friends in their different families at that place. Afterwards my spirit, though awfully bowed under it, was clothed with a sweet calm.

'We left Waterford the 15th, and had the company of our valuable friends John Pemberton and Thomas Cash, on the way to Clonmel. The 16th, was a meeting, in which they both spoke, myself employed in profitable silence. The 18th, we entered on the laborious service of visiting families at Clonmel. In divers of the sittings I had cause humbly to believe it was a right engagement, our dear Master being graciously near, and opening different states in a remarkable manner. May such seasons of condescending goodness remain cause of

humiliation, and lead my soul to a firm trust in his holy name, who has been pleased thus to employ me, not only in this place, but in several others in this province of Munster, which had been very closely fixed on my mind before I left home. O, my soul, mayst thou be more and more centered in humble devotedness to the requirings of thy God, who is worthy for ever, to be served, worshipped, and adored.

'We have now gone through great part of the families, and have cause to say, Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. Indeed he has enabled me to deal plainly, and honestly to discharge my duty; and I hope we have left an open door for such as may come after us. We also visited the families at Garryrone, to our satisfaction, and were at some other meetings; thence returned to Waterford, and the 9th of the Tenth Month began the arduous service of visiting families there: my soul being dipped as into the bottom of Jordan. May all within me be so entirely submissive, as that the Lord's voice may be deeply attended to, and wholly obeyed in

simplicity; that his blessed will may be done by me on earth, as it is done in heaven.

'On First-day, the 10th, sat two meetings in humble, and I hope profitable silence: after the second, paid two visits. We pursued the engagement diligently, and were enabled, I hope, under a good degree of right authority, the covering of the wing of ancient Goodness, to speak to different states. Some of the opportunities were memorable seasons, to the comfort of both visited and visitors. Tendering invitations were extended to some of the youth, but close matter handed to others; and, O, may the slothful be awakened to diligence before the awful midnight cry be heard, that, so, their language may not be, "Give us of your oil, for our "lamps are gone out." I have kept no written accounts of many of the visits; but some as is above-mentioned, were favoured opportunities; in others the life was exceedingly low; and to some of the visited a lively visitation was renewed, and received with much tenderness. O, may it please the God of all mercies to fix his gracious renewed call, that

it may be like a nail in a sure place. May the inhabitants of this land be awakened to their proper business, and so work in the vineyards of their own hearts, that if calamities should overtake them, they may be sheltered under the Almighty's wing.

'The 22d.—I have been very poorly with a violent cold, and soreness in my chest, so that I was much weakened, and was led to look towards my everlasting home: and I should, I believe, have been well content to lay down my natural life, had it been my dear Master's will.

'We finished our laborious service at Waterford, the 29th of the Tenth Month, through the renewed help of gracious Goodness, whose condescension was great in opening states, and giving ability to speak to them in his love, so that I hope many were led to view their undone conditions without a Saviour. May it prove lastingly profitable to their poor never-dying souls.

'We went to Clonmel the 30th, and the next day the Province-meeting began: the sitting in the morning much favoured. The

first of the Eleventh Month, at the close of the meeting for worship, began that for business. My mind was much impressed, and awfully covered, and as matter opened I was led to drop it, pressing some who had entered into covenant with God, to keep their covenants. The meeting was much broken, and a solemn covering over it. When the business was finished, my spirit was led to supplicate the Almighty, and the meeting ended in a solemn, tender manner.

"The 5th of the Eleventh Month, we came to Cork, the 6th was the week-day meeting, and the 9th, we began on that [still] arduous service of visiting families in this city; sat with five, and I hope we may humbly acknowledge that our good Master was pleased to give us the earnest-penny. Indeed, one of the visits was a memorable opportunity; the descending of divine love did so cover and baptize, under which a renewed visitation was extended. May it be closed in with; for if such seasons are slighted, in which divine mercy is so bountifully bestowed, surely it must add to the

weight of distress in a day that is hastening.

'The 16th. We have sat with 24 families, and have had humble cause to admire the Lord's goodness, who has been pleased to be near, strengthening to labour, to deal very plainly with the lukewarm, and to warn the disobedient, also to comfort some poor mournful travellers. I was one evening so fatigued, and had taken so little proper nourishment, that I was very faint, and seemed as if I was going home; but my spirit was clothed with such a heavenly sweetness, that I believe all would have been well with me. O, my soul, mayest thou keep near to thy dear Redeemer; that when the time, the solemn time, *doth* come, my spirit may be centered with Him in everlasting rest.

'26th, we have had forty-six sittings, very close labour, and many deep baptisms; but may thankfully acknowledge our heavenly Father has been mercifully near, opening the states of many, and renewing a gracious invitation to divers. Some, I hope,

will close in with it. O, may his offers of love be as bread cast on the waters; that may be found after many days.

At Cork, Youghall, and Bandon together, we had about two hundred sittings; but what swelled the number was, that I was not easy without visiting those who might be termed the outcasts; for when reduced very low, I received this language or command, *Gather the scattered*, in a manner that deeply contrited my spirit: and we may with reverence acknowledge, that the gathering arm of power was wonderfully manifested, to the tendering of many of their minds, so that great contrition appeared.

'We left Cork the 9th of the Second Month, 1785, and came the 10th to Clonmel, where was Mehetabel Jenkins from Berwick, in the state of Massachusetts, North America. We went with her to a meeting, appointed for the town's people at Cashel; which was a solid time. After some other religious engagements, we went to Waterford. My spirit was much affected

at a First-day meeting there as I sat in silence, in viewing some whose minds had been tenderly visited, but who had not made that improvement that could have been wished.

'The Quarterly Meeting began the 26th, at which were Thomas Ross and John Pemberton. The week-day meeting was the 1st of the Third month, in which meeting my mind was set at liberty. The 2nd paid several visits and was engaged in close labour; and the next day left Waterford in company with Thomas Ross and John Pemberton, and went to Ross, where we had a meeting with the town's people, a time, I hope of profit to divers. We had also several other religious opportunities there. Then we attended a public meeting on the way to Hoare town, and from thence went to Forrest and Cooladine. At a meeting held at the last place, different states were visited under the influence of divine love, and it was a favoured season: blessed be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who remains to be with his Israel, and at times

causeth the shout of a king to be heard in the camp.

'This morning [the date and place are omitted] I awoke with the precious feeling of the sweetness of divine love, which remained some time without alloy; and under this covering had the opening of fresh service in this quarter, which brought my spirit under close exercise. It was to visit the families. The 12th, went to Ballinclay, and was the next day at the First-day meeting: a searching, laborious time.

'We went the 15th to Ballydarton, and the 17th entered on a family visit to the meeting at Kilconner, accompanied by Richard Shackleton. Some of the visits were seasons of favour, in which divine goodness administered his visitations of love in an extraordinary manner. May the visited keep under the tendering power of Truth, and then, I believe, some of them will be brought into usefulness in the Lord's family.

'The 22d. This morning closed the family-visit under the fresh renewings of the baptizing power of Truth; and in the evening

reached Cooladine, O, may our minds bow, and reverently worship that awful Being, who continues to be near his poor little depending children. 29th. Finished the family-visit here, not without having had some deep and painful labour, though there is a little remnant in whom I believe the true birth is begotten. May nothing be permitted to wound, or hinder its increase. I may remark that my heavenly Father was pleased to own, in a week-day meeting with the comforts of his Holy Spirit, which I silently enjoyed, to a greater degree than I have many times known: in which, under the runnings of the sweet streams of tender humbling consolation, I was led to make fresh covenant that, through the aid of his Holy Spirit, I would willingly keep with my dear crucified Lord, though in a state of continued suffering, while the seed was there, not desiring a release; if He would be pleased to sustain and keep in the patience, to the end. O, may my spirit be so entirely weaned, as only to desire to be what, and where, best pleases my gracious Lord and Master.

'The First-day meeting was very laborious, my spirit travelling as under the mountains; but I felt engaged to stand up under an awful covering, and the power of Truth spread, to the baptizing of the meeting; and I believe I had to close while life was at the highest; and the sweet savour of it remained on my mind for sometime after. The 13th of the Fourth Month, we finished the family-visit, within the compass of Forrest Meeting. Here Richard Shackleton left us. He had been dipped into those baptisms that fit us for service, and our spirits were nearly united.

'The 14th we had a public meeting at Wexford, then went to Ballentore, where we visited the families. We attended a monthly meeting at Emiscosthy, and went back to Ballentore; where at a week-day meeting were divers not of our society. Truth owned, and I was led to open how it had been with me, respecting my concern to come to that land: that we had no outward gain for preaching, and that I felt the "woe" was "unto me if I preach-

ed not," I enlarged on the purity that vessels thus employed should be brought into, that the wine and oil might pass without mixture. I also had to treat on the advantage of silent-worship. It was a season of favour, for which, may all within me, bless and praise Him to whom praise belongs.

'We visited the families of friends generally in the counties of Wexford and Wicklow, and felt peace in the review; though deep was our wading, and close the labour, with renewed baptisms.

'We reached Dublin the 29th of the Fourth Month. The half years meeting began the 30th, and concluded the 4th of the Fifth Month. I was strengthened to perform what appeared my duty, to the peace of my own mind. On the 4th, under the sweet savour of uniting love, we parted with dear Mehetabel Jenkins, Richard Shackleton, and some other friends, who were going the next morning for England: and soon after my dear companion was seized with a violent suffocation, so that if she had not been speedily relieved, it appeared likely

that she would have been soon removed by it. She was bled, and had a blister, which was of service.

'After this, we were at Mountmelick, and paid a family visit there, having about fifty sittings, some of them close searching seasons. Dear Mary Ridgway belonged to that meeting, to whom my spirit was nearly united. We returned by Ballitore, and Baltibois to Dublin, and were at several meetings.

'On the 7th of the Sixth Month my spirit bowed, and was bound up in dark deep silence; and my mind was greatly affected lest I had offended my God, and I humbly desired to understand in what; but I was awfully and sweetly answered thus, *I am in the thick darkness, as well as in the light.* The next day we left Dublin.'

It may be added that when she delivered up her certificate to her Monthly Meeting, which was in the Eighth Month, she bore testimony with reverent thankfulness, to the mercy and goodness of the Almighty: by

which, she said, her companion and herself, through many deep probations, had been endued with help and strength, to discharge their duty to his praise, and to their own peace.

CHAP. VI.

Visits Hampshire, Kent, Surry, Somerset, Devon, Dorset, Cornwall—a written Soliloquy—visits the Northern and Midland counties—extract of a letter—visits families in Hants, Eastern, Northern, and Midland Counties—second family visit at Sheffield, and at Kendal—family visit at Birmingham.

SARAH STEPHENSON does not appear to have travelled much in the remainder of the year in which she closed her engagements in Ireland; she however was at the Quarterly Meeting for Devonshire; but in 1786, she had a certificate for the purpose of visiting Friends in Hampshire, Kent, Surry, and parts adjacent, with the families in some places. In the course of this journey, she attended the Yearly Meeting, and had Mehetabel Jenkins for a companion through Kent, and the adjacent county of Sussex.

'In 1787 she travelled twice with certificate. The first journey was chiefly in Somersetshire; and in divers places the visit was extended to families. The other engagement was in Devonshire, Cornwall, and Dorsetshire. In this visit also, she was concerned at times to go from house to house; and Ann Byrd, already mentioned, bore her company in the three counties.

The year 1788 was marked with more extensive travels; but, previously, her mind had been much stripped of consolation, and enveloped in dismay. Such an event would naturally tend to keep it humble, and to prepare her for further service. The following soliloquy, penned the 21st of the Second Month shows, in some degree, for words paint feelings but feebly, the depth of her distress, her continued patience, and the administration of help in the needful time.

'My mind, (says she), having been for some time deeply led, as in the valley and shadow of death, so that I much feared I had some way or other greatly offended my good Master, many were my searches; but Oh,

I could not say with David, "When I go "through the valley and shadow of death, "I will fear no evil;" for many were my fears, and the greatest was, lest I should never again experience the lifting up of the light and life of his glorious countenance upon me. But this morning, being gathered into solemn stillness, my soul felt these words, "My words, they are spirit, and "they are life;" and they proved so to my poor spirit, which was then permitted in some degree, to see the usefulness of these baptisms, not only to myself, but in order to feel with, and speak to others who may be alike proved; and who may hear in this valley the roaring of the beasts of prey. *These are deep felt truths, to the poor in spirit.*'

In the Sixth Month, she received her Monthly Meeting's certificate to visit Friends in the Northern and Midland counties, also in Scotland; and it had the addition so usual in those lately granted to her, it mentioned her view of visiting in some places the families of Friends.

She has left a very short account of this long journey; and indeed she performed it, comparatively, in a very short time; for she was at home in the Eleventh Month. Her former companion Ann Byrd went with her as far as York; and then Esther Brady (already mentioned by the name of Esther Marshall) joined her, and they went together through Scotland.

A short extract from a letter, written at Edinburgh, on this journey, may show her humble disposition, and, in the scarcity of information relating to this engagement, may be particularly acceptable to the reader.

'I have had renewedly hitherto, on this journey, to admire His love, and great condescension in helping me along, so as to leave the places in general peaceful: a favour beyond the expression of words. Indeed, I cannot but, humbly, afresh at this time, admire his goodness, being often led to feel after this manner, "My father's "family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the "least in my father's house."

When she attended the Monthly Meeting on her return, and gave back her certificate, she informed her friends that in the course of her visit, from meeting to meeting, she had been led to trust in that power, which appeared at first like a grain of mustard-seed, but, she added, that in its progress, it enabled her fully to discharge her duty. She also expressed her compassion for the low circumstances of many friends in Scotland, and her belief of the need of thankfulness, for those who were in more easy situations.

Two religious engagements employed a part of the year 1789; in which she had the accustomed certificates of the concurrence of Friends. First, accompanied by Ann Byrd, she attended the Welch Yearly Meeting held that year at Brecon. Then returning through Herefordshire, they visited the families of Friends at Leominster; and after calling at Worcester, and visiting several meetings in Gloucestershire, she arrived at home after an absence of about two months. Her other engagement was a visit to most

of the families of Friends in Hampshire; and Mary Merryweather, wife of John Merryweather, of Ringwood in Hampshire, and daughter of Robert Davis, of Minehead, in Somersetshire, a promising young woman in the ministry since deceased, was her companion.

She was at the Yearly Meeting both in 1790 and 1791; but previously to that in the latter year, she had obtained a certificate to visit some families of Friends in Wales. Her own short memorandum of the journey only mention those of Pontypool, Monmouthshire; after which service she went to the Welch Yearly Meeting, held that year at Builth in Brecknockshire.

But now a longer journey was to be accomplished, though the season of the year might seem ill adapted to the frame of a tender female. It seems however, that the clear call of religious duty silenced subordinate considerations, and our friend had long been endeavouring in simplicity to follow that holy Leader, who can make hard things easy. In the Tenth Month she obtained a

certificate to visit Friends in some of the Eastern, Northern, and Midland counties, and families in some spots. Her own words, with little variation, may relate the accomplishment of the undertaking.

"I left home the 21st of the Tenth Month, 1791, with my beloved companion Ann Byrd, and got to Marlborough. The 22d, after an opportunity with a widow friend there, we rode to Hungerford, at which place we had a sitting with two friends, and then went to Newbury. First-day, the 23d, was at a favoured meeting, and a sitting at a friend's. In the afternoon we rode to Reading. The 24th we went to Staines, and the next day were at a meeting there, owned by the Master; also had two opportunities in friends' families. The same evening we went to Brentford. The 26th, we were at a meeting there, the forepart of which was very exercising, but it ended comfortably. Afterwards we rode to Islington, and lodged at Mary Sterry's. On the 27th we had a humbling tendering opportunity; the next day rode to Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex,

and were the day following at a meeting held in silence, and deeply exercising; but we had two opportunities in the friends' families which much relieved our minds, and then we went to Saffron Walden. The 30th, being First-day, we were at the two meetings, and three opportunities in friends' families. The 31st we were at a meeting at Thaxted, very close and exercising; but I was enabled, under the authority of Truth, to clear my mind, and felt comfortable. After dinner, we had a baptizing time, to the tendering of all present, and then rode to Dunmow.

'The 1st of the Eleventh Month, we had a meeting at Felsted, and the 2d had one at Stebbing, attended with deep travail of spirit, under the feeling of a lukewarm disposition, inattentive to the business of salvation; and for the awakening of such, we were enabled to labour closely, but under the influence of that love, which covets all to be gathered. After dinner, also, we were favoured with the extendings of heavenly goodness, under which we parted, and rode to Bardfield, where George Gibson and Susanna Day,

from Walden, came to us on the 3d, and we had a favoured meeting. They accompanied us in paying two or three family-visits. The 5th, we dined at a friend's house, where we had a searching opportunity, then rode to J. M's, and spent Seventh-day with them. On First-day, we went to Chelmsford, and sat the two meetings, which were laborious and exercising; but we had one or two opportunities in friends' families which were relieving to our poor minds, so that we left the place easy.

'The 8th, we arose early, and went to Boreham to breakfast, where we had a comfortable but closely baptizing opportunity, and then went to an appointed meeting at Witham, very deeply exercising: more humility and spiritual labour were wanting; but Truth arose, and we felt humble thankfulness. The 9th, we had an appointed meeting at Malden, where many friends met us, and several of the town's people came, and the scholars of a girl's boarding-school. It was a memorable day. The blessed Truth reigned, both at meeting and in an

opportunity at the inn, where twenty or more friends were present. It was a day that called for reverent thanksgiving to the Author of all good; unto whom all praise belongs; and unto poor mortals, abstracted from heavenly goodness, only blushing, and confusion of face. The 10th at Kelvedon, we had a sweet, silent meeting, also some family sittings; and the next day a meeting attended with close labour, under the feeling of a lukewarm spirit being too prevalent. On the 12th, was a meeting at Coggeshall, large and mercifully owned by our great and good Master. It ended with solemn supplication. We had also several other favoured opportunities, and left the place peaceful.

'The 13th, we went to Colchester, where we found [our] dear [ancient friend] John Kendal weak and poorly; but I believe sweetly alive in the immortal life. The next day we were at the two meetings, which were deeply exercising, and did not tend much to the relief of our minds. The next morning we had a sweet opportunity at a girl's boarding-school, and went forwards.

On the 16th, we were at a meeting at Colne, a time of deep exercise. Here our beloved friend Mary Brightwen, of Coggeshall, met us, whose company we also had at some other places. She is one who lives near that pure fountain, which preserves us fresh, and living in the best life. We had two favoured opportunities, and then rode to Halsted; and on the 17th, were at a meeting there, and at several family opportunities, in which the offer of holy help was extended. The 18th we went to Haverill, and were the next day in a meeting there, had deep wading, but Truth arose, and it ended with thanksgiving and praises to Him who is for ever worthy.

[Being now in Suffolk] ' we went the 20th to Sudbury, and the next day attended the two meetings. At the afternoon one was a burial, and they were both owned, as also were several other opportunities. Samuel Alexander, of Needham, in this county, met us here, and his company was truly acceptable. On the 22d, he accompanied us to Ipswich, where we rested the next day,

and had a tendering opportunity with some friends in the evening. The 24th, we were at meeting, and a time of renewed favour it was. My mind was deeply baptized, and I had sensibly to perceive that there was a renewed visitation to a man friend there, on whose head I thought I could lay my hand. It was a day to be remembered. The individual above alluded to was much tendered. I hope it will be made profitable to him, and that he may make covenant, and keep it. After meeting we had a sweet tendering opportunity at our lodgings, where several friends were present; and in the afternoon we went home with Samuel Alexander to Needham. The 25th we went into the country to visit an infirm woman, and in the afternoon to see William Crotch and his family, where we had an uniting season, not soon to be forgotten. The following day we were at the meeting, in which a little bread was handed to the poor and needy, of which number there were some almost ready to faint. The passage respecting the poor widow, who was gathering two sticks, to

bake a cake before she and her son died, was revived, as applicable to a state, or states, then present; and I believe it was made a season of encouragement to some. We had some uniting opportunities at that place, I hope not soon to be forgotten.

'On the 27th, accompanied by Samuel Alexander, we set out for Brandon, and were the next day, at a meeting laborious, and deeply exercising. Here some friends from Bury met us. The 29th, we rode to Wareham in Norfolk, and had a comfortable baptizing season in a friend's family there. That evening we went to Wisbeach in Cambridgeshire. About seven miles of the road was, I think, one continued mire, so that our horse was in danger of being set fast, but we were favoured to get safe through it. We went the same evening to Gedney, in Lincolnshire, where our kind friend Samuel Alexander left us. The 30th we were at meeting there, which was a season of encouragement to the few who belonged to it; we also had a tendering cementing time, before we left the place, and then we rode to Spald-

ing. On the 1st of the Twelfth Month, we were at a meeting there, pretty large, and for a time very exercising; but the covering of ancient Goodness gradually spread over us, and an encouraging time it was, as well as a close one. On the 2d and 3d, we were riding to Broughton; and the meeting the next day was small, owing to the inclemency of the weather: it was silent and deeply exercising; but an opportunity which we had in a family, tended much to the relief of our minds, and I believe to the comfort of some, whom we left under the precious feeling of the Father's love. That afternoon we rode to Newark in Nottinghamshire, eight miles, the weather being very cold and snowy, and the next day, over the forest, to Mansfield. The snow was so deep, that we had much difficulty in getting along; but, through the goodness of our gracious Helper, we came safely. The 6th, we were at a meeting at Mansfield, I trust to satisfaction, and afterwards rode to Chesterfield. We had a meeting there the 9th, comfortable

and refreshing to our spirits, and I hope to others.

'The 10th we went to Sheffield, and the next day entered on the close and laborious service of visiting families. We had above one hundred sittings, and casual opportunities. The number was increased by extending the visit to those that were disunited, and to such as attended meetings, though not joined in membership with the society. I think we might thankfully acknowledge that gracious Goodness afforded help from day to day, and covered our spirits with his gathering love; so that when close things were dropped, they did not seem to be spurned at.

'We closed the laborious service the 9th of the First Month, 1792, and left Sheffield the 11th, in near unity, I believe, with the truly living among them. On the 12th, we reached Stockport in Cheshire; and the meeting there was a baptizing season. The 15th we attended a meeting at Newton, which is a small one, on the forest, and in a very cold exposed situation, and no house near.

Our minds were dipped into sympathy with the few friends belonging to it. May such as are differently situated prize their privileges, and not neglect the attendance of meetings through small matters, or slight indisposition. From thence we went to Sutton, where the meeting was rather small, but owned by the Master by the extendings of holy help, in order to strengthen the little that remains that is almost ready to die. Next day was a meeting at Frandley, pretty large, a low and wading time, but I hope not without profit to some present. After meeting we went to Warrington, in Lancashire, and on the 17th, attended a marriage. In the afternoon we had a favoured opportunity, in which a precious visitation was renewed to divers present. The next day we had a meeting with Friends, a time of favour, and of tender visitation to backsliders. On the 19th, was a meeting at Ashton, a time of deep wading, but it ended under the feeling of life; and on the 20th, one at Langton, I hope to profit. The 21st, we were at a meeting at Preston, deeply exercising; but

some select opportunities were to satisfaction. The 22d we went to Lancaster, and rested a few days at my dear cousin Sarah Dillworth's, with whom and her daughter, we were refreshed with the descendings of celestial dew, from Him who regards the dust of Zion, and satisfies her poor with bread. We also attended the week-day meeting, which was deeply exercising, there being but few deeply travailing baptized minds, but many revolters who are laying the reins as on the neck, and going whither they list, and others in a lukewarm state; so that when Jerusalem is searched as with candles, what must be the portion of these?

'From Lancaster we went to Kendal, my mind being under close baptism, having long had a prospect of again visiting families there; and this appeared to be the right time. So, with the unity of Friends there, we entered on that weighty service, and though deep wading and frequent baptisms were our portion, yet, we had thankfully to experience the arm of sure help to be near for our support, and to supply for the service of each

day. To Him praise and thanksgiving belongs, now and for ever! Thus, through the renewings of holy help, we were enabled to go through the service, under the covering of that love, which seeketh to save, and also to bring back those that are gone astray. I think we had about ninety sittings; and we parted with the living among them, under the sweet feeling of that unity, aptly compared to the ointment poured on the head of Aaron, that ran down the beard and to the skirts of the garment. There is a precious remnant of the living upright hearted in that place, and they have a mournful allotment. From Kendal, we went to Yelland, Wray, and Settle, and were at First-day Meeting at the last named place. The prevalence of a lukewarm spirit was painfully to be felt; but there is a remnant, which I trust is like the few in Sardis, whose garments were unspotted. May the humble diffident minds be strengthened. [We had now entered Yorkshire] and we proceeded from Settle to Airton, and Skipton, where formerly that honourable man in his day,

David Hall, lived. We had a searching time there; but an invitation to the Fountain of purification was given, and some consolation, to the poor travellers Zionward, was handed forth. From Skipton, taking one meeting by the way, we went to Rawden; and had deep wading at the meeting on First-day; but, after a considerable time of starving that thirst for vocal ministry, which is painful to rightly exercised ministers, Truth arose. We went the same evening to dear Christiana Hustler's, near Bradford, and rested two days, as both of us were poorly in health. It was comfortable being with Christiana and her daughters; and whilst we were with them several friends came to see us, with whom we had some favoured opportunities. We afterwards took some meetings in our way to Chesterfield, and from that place proceeded pretty directly to the Quarterly Meeting held at Birmingham. We also visited the families in that place, from which I returned home, and reached Melksham the 23d of the Tenth Month, 1792.

CHAP. VII.

Two memorandums—visits the North again—Ackworth School—Esther Tuke—Edinburgh—John Wigham—Glasgow, Cornwood, and Allandale—Meetings in Durham and Yorkshire—families at Whitby and Scarborough—York Quarterly Meeting—Deborah Townsend—families at Pickering and Hull, &c.—a third time at Lancaster—families at Liverpool—Esther Tuke near her close—families at Mansfield—Coalbrookdale—Ann Summerland extract of a letter—visits families in some Southern and Western counties—a visit to part of the Eastern and southern counties—families at Norwich—at Lynn, and Yarmouth—at Colchester.

WE have not any account of further travels during the remainder of the year 1792; nor of many in the following year; except that our friend was at the Welch Yearly Meeting, held at Carmarthen; also at the

Essex Quarterly Meeting held at Colchester, and at some others on her return homewards.

The two following memorandums belong to this year, 1793.

'21st of Sixth Month. Being at Wanborough, I awoke this morning with the sweet impression of these words: *As a tender Shepherd, doth He care for his sheep.*

'Twelfth Month. At a meeting on a public occasion, my mind was much exercised, travailing after a deep centre and lowly waiting, to get where the counsel of God is opened, either for ourselves, for the people, or for both; but my exercise being, as I thought quite unavailing, my spirit sunk into dejection. But near the close of the meeting, when mourning as a dove without its mate, a language was uttered, in the secret of my soul, after this manner: *Thou art precious unto me. I have graven thee on the palms of my hands. Thy walls are continually before me.*'

Early in the year 1794, she again obtained a certificate for visiting the North: which journey like the former one may be related with small variation in her own words.

'The 15th of the Third Month, I set out for the North, in company with my dear friend Mary Jefferys, jun. of Melksham, intending to be at the Half-years Meeting in Scotland. We left Melksham in the morning after having been favoured together with the sweet over-shadowings of love, and after reverent solemn supplication to the Father of all sure mercies: under which our spirits were united, and an humble trust raised in the ever worthy name of all-saving help. We went by way of Hampton, Nailsworth, &c. a friend of Melksham accompanying us as far as Worcester. The 18th we attended a meeting there, which was a season owned of the Master. In the afternoon paid a comfortable satisfactory visit to George Becket and his wife. He was confined by illness. In this opportunity, we were favoured to drink together of the brook by the way, which truly refreshes the poor weary travel-

lers. The next day we went to Stourbridge, and the 20th were at meeting there, in which my mind was led into searching labour, but also in gathering love; and at the close, solemn supplication arose. The same afternoon we rode to Dudley. Next day, we were at a meeting there, in which gracious help was administered, and some close labour was extended under the tender covering of love, and the honest-hearted were encouraged, humbly to persevere. At the close, the covering of the Spirit of solemn supplication was felt, under which prayer was put up to the blessed Preserver of men.

'We proceeded to Birmingham, Tamworth, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Warnsworth, Thorn, and Doncaster, having one or more meetings at each place; and I was favoured with help to discharge my mind. At Tamworth, we visited the few friends in their families. The 4th of the Fourth Month, we reached Ackworth, staid there some days, attended the meetings on First-day, and the Week-day; and I felt my mind

drawn to have separate sittings with different parts of the family. Some of them were to sweet satisfaction, particularly that in the Girl's school, where was a general tenderness. Oh! there are some, yea, many sweet children! May they be preserved, is the fervent desire of my spirit! We also went to the Monthly Meeting at Pontefract, in which my mind was much exercised in deep travail, and enabled to labour in a very close manner; but under that covering that desires all might be gathered, and the dead in spirit raised from their graves of earthly mindedness, before the solemn language be uttered, Remove the candlesticks out of their places. For this, my soul prays. My spirit felt easy in having faithfully warned them.

'We then went to York, and was kindly received by dear Esther Tuke and her family. We attended the two meetings there, on First-day, and in the evening had a select sitting with the scholars [of the Girl's school] in which Esther appeared sweetly in testimony. From York we went to

Thirsk, Stockton, and Newcastle. After we had been at meeting there, being accompanied by two friends of that town, we proceeded for Scotland.

'The 22d of the Fourth Month, we got to Kelso, and had a meeting there, owned by the Master; and the 25th, reached, Edinburgh. In the evening the Meeting of Ministers and Elders was held, and the next day, the adjourned Monthly Meeting. On the following day, being First-day, were two pretty large public meetings, both owned of the Master; and many of the inhabitants came in. In the morning, I was engaged both in testimony and supplication; and in the afternoon in testimony. John Wigham was there, and engaged in public labour in both meetings. He was preparing to go, on a religious visit, to America; and under this awful prospect, my mind was led into near sympathy with him.

'On the 28th, was the Half-year's Meeting: first one for worship, then one for business, and in the evening the meeting for Ministers and Elders, all in degree owned.

We had also, after supper, a heart tendering opportunity with the friends out of the North, to whom I felt, or at least to some of them, the flowings of gospel love, sweetly cementing our spirits. We afterwards sat with the different families belonging to Edinburgh Meeting, and were also at their week-day meeting, and the 2d of the Fifth Month, set out for Glasgow. We arrived there the next day, in the afternoon, and the rude rabble followed our chaise, as we rode along the streets, behaving very unhandsomely, of which our singular appearance might be the occasion.

'The 4th we had a meeting with a few who are in part convinced, and a few other persons. It was a season owned by the Master with his good presence, so that we had cause afresh to bless and praise His holy name. The 7th, we reached Carlisle, one hundred miles from Glasgow, and were, the next day at meeting there, a close searching time, but I felt best help to enable me to discharge what appeared my duty, and was peaceful. The 9th, we set out for Corn-

wood and stopped at Haltwhistle to dine, where a friend met us, and led our horse in such roads, as seemed almost impassable for a chaise, on account of bogs; but we were favoured to get safe to Thomas Wigham's that evening. The next day we rested, and the following day, being First-day, were at meeting, a time in which I believe many felt something of the power of Truth. The 12th, we went to Allandale, and though the distance is but twelve miles, we were four hours or more in going. The road was so very bad two miles of the way, we rode in Thomas Wigham's cart. One friend led the horse, and another walked by our side, and often held the cart, to prevent us from being overturned; but the day was fine, and my mind peaceful, so that I have seldom had a more comfortable ride. The 13th, we had a meeting at Allandale, in which different states were opened and spoken to, I believe under the power of Truth, as it was a favoured season. The 14th, we went to Newcastle, and the 15th was the Week-day meeting, a season of sweet re-

freshment, I believe, to the humble travellers, tending further to unite the spirits of some of us. In the afternoon we rode to Durham; at which place we had a meeting, exercising and very laborious, among a few who are robbed and spoiled. We went the same day to Darlington, and on the 18th, being First-day, were at the meeting there, in which the wing of the gathering love of the Great Shepherd was, I believe, sensibly perceived by many. On the 20th, was the Monthly Meeting, which we attended, a low wading season. On the 21st, we had a favoured meeting at Yarm, and in the afternoon went to Ayton, where the next day we had a meeting, in which my mind was much enlarged, I trust under right authority. The 23d, we went to Whitby, where the next day, which was First-day, I went to meeting under a weighty exercise, having long had a prospect of visiting the families of Friends there; and sitting under deep baptism, after a time I felt it my place to stand up, and was engaged in testimony; in the course of which I had to inform

Friends of my prospect of visiting families. When we returned from meeting, I received a letter giving an account of the death of a dearly beloved child, and my cousin, Edward Jefferys, jun. whom I had cared for as a child of my own. This information deeply affected my natural feelings, but, under the conflict, a sweetness not to be fully expressed covered my mind, with a language as though uttered by him, Weep not for me, for I am glorified in heaven. Thus my spirit was bowed in thankfulness, with tears of humble rejoicing. My mind was so strengthened, that I went to meeting in the afternoon, and in the evening entered on the arduous service of visiting families, through the condescending goodness of Him who helpeth with his blessed Spirit to tread as on scorpions, giving a degree of that harmless nature of the dove, which makes way amongst high and opposing spirits, by which, at least for the present, some were brought down. We also met with some who, like scattered sheep, were very insensible of their loss; but these were invited

home to the true Shepherd's fold. We also met with a small mournful remnant, who I fear may weaken themselves by unprofitable bemoaning. We had near seventy sittings, besides attending First-day and week-day meetings. It was a deeply exercising engagement; but through adorable kindness, we were favoured to close peacefully, and took leave of them at the last meeting under the renewed extendings of gathering love.

'We next went to Scarborough, where we were engaged in the like arduous service. When we had gone about half through the visit, the Quarterly Meeting at York came on, and we attended it. It was very large, and measurably owned by the Master; but the exercise and depression of my poor spirit was not small, though I was helped to relieve myself by uttering what seemed my duty to deliver. Dear Esther Tuke, a mother in Israel, was affectionately kind.

'At this Quarterly Meeting were Deborah Townsend of London, and her companion Mercy Ransom of Hitchin, in their way to

Scotland. Dear Deborah's state of health was such, that according to human probability, she was not likely again to see her own habitation; but her mind evinced a state of resignation, and preparation for what her good Master might see best, either life or death. They travelled on, though with difficulty, as far as Edinburgh, and there Deborah peacefully closed the scene of life.

'When the Quarterly Meeting was over, we returned to Scarborough, to finish the family visit there, in the course of which we had some tendering opportunities with divers who attended our meetings, though not joined to the society; and those who were so, but whose dwellings were not within the precious inclosure, were called, and invited no longer to remain without it: but to return, with speed, whilst the day of merciful visitation was extended, before the door was shut. There was also a travailing remnant, which was, I trust, a little strengthened; and we parted under the feeling of the precious love of Him, from whom all good cometh, and to whom belongeth blessing

and honour, salvation and praise; but from the servants the acknowledgment remains to be due, "We are unprofitable servants, we "have done that which it was our duty to "do."

'We visited the few families belonging to Pickering, about fifteen, and also attended their Monthly Meeting, and then went to Bridlington, and sat with the few families there; also attended the meeting on First-day. Some sober neighbours came in, whose minds seemed in a seeking state, and who were, I believe, glad of the opportunity. Surely the Lord's table will be filled, and the descendants of the faithful shut out, if they turn not in time to Him, who hath so loudly called, "Turn ye, turn ye, why will "ye die, O house of Israel?" From Pickering we went to Beverley; some miles of the way on the sand, close by the sea. As the weather was fine, and I had the feeling of that peace which is an evidence of our being in the way we should go, it made the ride pleasant. We had a meeting at Beverley the next day, exercising and laborious.

Thence we went to Hull, where being joined by Christiana Hustler, we entered pretty directly on the arduous service of visiting families; and though the baptisms were many, and the labour deep, yet merciful help was graciously near, so that I trust some minds were benefited. We finished the engagement on a Sixth-day evening, had an appointed meeting the next day for all the visited, and in the afternoon went to Cave. We were at the meeting there on First-day, in which very close doctrine was dropped, for the arousing of the lukewarm careless professors, to awake lest they sleep the sleep of death. After this we parted with Christiana Hustler, and went to York, were at the Week-day meeting, a season owned by the Master, and the next day went to Selby. M. Anderson of Kelso, who was at York, went with us, also Elizabeth Tuke. Their company was pleasant, and the meeting at Selby favoured with the descendings of heavenly good. The next day, we went to Leeds, and on First-day attended both the meetings there. A little strength was given

to throw off my burthen; and to leave it with them. The next meeting was Skipton, in which was deep wading and close labour; but Truth arose, and I trust some minds were strengthened; and to others, their states opened and the way set forth *how* and *where* to apply for saving help: also the danger of delay. After meeting, we went to Settle, and had a meeting appointed there. Strength was given to labour, I hope faithfully. We also had some more private opportunities to a good degree of satisfaction. We went to Bentham on a Seventh-day, and on First-day were at meeting there, a close searching time, but favoured. In the afternoon we went to Lancaster, under the prospect of that arduous service of visiting the families of Friends there, from house to house; which was performed; and Oh, the deep baptisms, through which my soul passed while so engaged, the Master only knoweth. We had upwards of ninety sittings, besides attending their First-day, and week-day meetings. There are many in this place, who have "waxed fat and kicked," and forsaken the

Rock of their salvation; unto whom the offers of mercy were afresh extended, on the terms of true repentance. There are a few who see the disordered state of things, but sink under discouragement. May He who was with little David enable them to put on strength in his eternal Name, to search, and cleanse the camp.

'Having, I trust, been enabled to divide the Word aright, we left Lancaster peaceful, and went to Preston. We had a meeting with the few friends there. The spring of life seemed low, though I believe there is a little exercised remnant. From Preston, we went to Liverpool, with a prospect of again engaging in that arduous service of visiting families, and the Quarterly Meeting, to be held there approaching, I had a strong desire to get as far through the visit as possible with propriety, before it came on; and feeling the blessed Helper near, I too much forgot my own feeble frame, which was much worn down; so I was at last obliged to lie by, just as the Quarterly Meeting came on; and I was confined to my chamber, which

occasioned considerable delay in that part of the engagement which was unfinished. I moved, however, a little in it before I was quite recovered, and was helped to get through the visit; though my weakness continued, and many and deep were the attendant baptisms; but adorable kindness bore up; and, in some degree gave to drink, with a little living remnant, of "the brook by the way," and to praise the name of Him who liveth for ever. Whilst we were here, Esther Tuke came to Liverpool, though in a very infirm state, feeling a desire to be at that meeting and a few others. It was a little debt, which she felt unpaid, and she was desirous of finishing the day's work before the close came, which seemed near. She was favoured to finish the service, which she had a prospect of, and returned home peaceful, like a faithful and good servant, and I believe was ready to receive the invitation—"Come, thou blessed of my Father:" and in a very short space of time she was gathered, I doubt not, to an everlasting mansion of peace.

'But the concern with which I left home was not yet accomplished, so when I was a little recruited, being desirous not to lose time, of which I think I cannot justly charge myself, being too apt to err on the other hand, we left Liverpool for Manchester, and Sarah Benson, of Liverpool, felt a concern to join us in a visit to the families of Friends there.

'We attended the Monthly Meeting on a Third-day, and on Fourth-day entered on the weighty service, for weighty it is, as there is at seasons occasion to bring matters home, like Nathan to David. But the Ancient of days was near, and was pleased to renew a gracious visitation to many, and in particular to the strayed sheep of the house of Israel, that they might return to the Father's house in deep humiliation, contrition, and abasement, and then they would have bread enough, and to spare. In many of these opportunities, great brokenness was witnessed. We found in this place, a precious exercised remnant, unto which we were nearly united; and at the close of the visit parted under the

sweet covering of that love which is the badge of discipleship. We had one hundred and twelve sittings besides the First-day and week-day meetings, in twenty eight days. My poor frame was much worn down, but that felt of little consequence to me, though, from the feeling of weakness, I was induced to question whether I might reach home.

'From Manchester, we went to Warrington and attended their First-day meetings which were graciously owned by the Master, without whom the poor servants can do nothing. We were also favoured in the evening, with a precious opportunity at our lodgings, many friends being there. The next day we went to Chester, and sat with a few in their families, with whom we felt sympathy, much desiring that the little that remains may be strengthened. From Chester we went to Shrewsbury, and had a meeting there: we also went to see a friend on his death-bed, which was a tendering opportunity. He was soon after removed, I trust into that rest where sorrow is not known,

and all tears are wiped away, for ever to unite in Hallelujahs, with the redeemed. The same afternoon we went to Coalbrookdale; and attended two meetings on a First-day to satisfaction. In them, and in an opportunity in the evening, consolation was administered to the mournful tried hidden ones. Dear Ann Summerland was at both meetings, and also present in the evening. How beautiful, to behold greenness in old age! On Second-day, we went to Bewdley, and parted with dear Sarah Benson. We had a meeting there the next day, and went afterwards to Worcester, and thence home, taking only one meeting in our way. I was favoured to reach Melksham, the 6th of the Twelfth Month, 1794, without any material accident; and though with a feeble body, with a mind favoured with an evidence of having been moving in the humble, and I trust faithful discharge of that duty, which was required of me by Him, who is for ever worthy to be served, worshipped and adored.

The following short extract of a letter written soon after her return from this journey, may be a pleasant supplement.

'What is matter of humble thankfulness is that, on looking back, it affords peace, and that I reverently feel a belief of having cleared the way; not [having] left undone what I ought to have done. But notwithstanding this, this language has been much the companion of my mind, I *am but an unprofitable servant.* Indeed I feel nothing whereof to boast, save infirmities, and I hope a little in the cross of Christ.'

In 1795, she was at London at the Yearly Meeting, and in the following winter visited the families of Friends at Exeter, Shaftsbury, Poole, and Fordingbridge, having a certificate addressed to Friends in the respective counties, and in Somersetshire. She returned early in 1796, with an acknowledgment of divine help; and in that year came again to the Yearly meeting. As winter approached she began to prepare for an-

other journey, and obtained a certificate. Her late companion Mary Jefferys, had also the Monthly Meetings concurrence in bearing her company. A prospect of visiting families was also before her in this journey; and it may be remarked that though she had now been long accustomed to such visits, and was a sort of veteran in the service, it still appeared to her to be awful and arduous.

The following is very slightly varied from her own memorandums:

'The 18th of the Eleventh Month,' says she, 'I left home, under no small weight of exercise, having in prospect a visit to Friends in part of the Eastern and Southern counties, also to the families of Friends at Norwich, and some other places: my dear cousin, Mary Jefferys, jun. being my companion. We took Cirencester in our way, proceeding through Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Hertfordshire, into Suffolk and Norfolk, going pretty direct to Norwich, and taking meetings as we passed along: but the weight of the service of visiting

families was such as closely tried me. We got to that city on Seventh day. First-day we went to meeting, and near the close of it my way opened to some service, and I was helped through to the ease of my own mind. Next morning, by request, the ministers and elders met together to give me an opportunity of spreading before them my prospect. I also gave them my certificate to read, and a solemn opportunity it was, the precious wing of divine love being measurably spread over us, in which unity and sympathy, were fully expressed, and a willingness to afford any assistance in their power. It was given with great readiness to the close of the visit; and indeed we had a remarkably open door nearly through the whole of every description; but this was the Lord's doing, and marvellous in my eyes. O, blessed be his holy Name, who was mercifully near, renewing gracious help, and opening fresh matter to the various states, from family to family, under the precious tendering power of gathering love. It was a time of renewed visitation to many. O

may the favours of heaven be rightly received and improved, to the present and lasting advantage of their immortal spirits. The baptisms, through which my soul passed, is only known to the full by Him, who weighs the hills in a scale, and the mountains in a balance; but the close was peaceful, and the remembrance has caused humble thanksgiving.

'We left Norwich the 23d of the First Month, 1797, parting with some there in precious nearness. The 24th, was at a meeting at Wymondham, in which ability was given to labour closely and faithfully, under that covering which covets to seek and save, that none might be lost. The 25th, we rode to Swaffham, twenty-five miles, and the next day had a meeting owned by Him who is the light and life of his poor exercised children. The 27th, we had a precious opportunity before we set off for Lynn. In the way there, we called on a sick friend with whom we had a tendering time. Next day, being Seventh-day, we rested at Lynn; and on First-day, after the second meeting, we

entered on a family-visit there. We had twenty-four sittings, including visits to those who attended our meetings though not in membership. The opportunities with some of these sober people were to solid satisfaction. We also visited the girls of a charity-school, and a tendering time it was. I think I never saw more general tenderness amongst children. Their mistress was also tendered. Ah, I do believe the feet of the Lord's messengers will be turned to look after children who are not of this fold. Ah, what abundant labour and care has been bestowed on the children of our Society, and how have some of them cast it behind their backs!

'From Lynn we went to Wells, and were at a Monthly Meeting there, a time of deep exercise, and sat with the few families. Then we went to Holt, and on, by way of Norwich, to Yarmouth, where also we visited the families of Friends. We had thirty-seven sittings, in which gracious help was mercifully vouchsafed, so that we were helped through the visit to the peace of our own minds, and I humbly trust the seed was vi-

sited, the pure life a little strengthened, and some afresh animated to press forward for the prize that is at the end of the race. The lukewarm were warned of their danger, and the rebellious invited to flee from the wrath to come. The repeated close engagements, accompanied by daily baptisms, with exposure to the cold air after being in warm rooms, much affected my feeble frame; yet I did not feel myself at liberty to lie by to recruit, but trusted in the holy arm for help of body as well as of mind, so pressed forward, and was mercifully supported. When the visit was finished, we set off the following morning for Pakefield, where we had a meeting in the evening, a humbling opportunity.

'At this place, and in different places on the coast, the people seemed under a fearful apprehension of an invasion by the French. At many places, particularly Yarmouth, there were a great number of military and naval men, whom it was affecting to see. Ah! when will the desirable day approach, when the swords will be beaten into ploughshares, and the spears into pruning-hooks,

and the people learn war no more. When I was on the Norfolk and Suffold coast, the feeling of a warlike spirit deeply affected my mind, as being that to which the Lord Jesus came to put an end.

'We had meetings at Beccles, Leystone, and Woodbridge, and so on to Colchester, where we visited the families and were mercifully helped; but pressing on beyond my bodily strength, I was very ill when we got to Kelvedon, and lay by some days.

'We went from thence to the Essex Quarterly Meeting, held at Coggeshall, and returned to Kelvedon, attended the week-day meeting there, after which rode on to Chelmsford, and the next day to [the house of my relation William Storrs Fry at] Plashett; where I was poorly, but got to Barking Meeting on First-day, and to the Monthly Meeting there on Third-day; also to a public Meeting held by desire of Sarah Harrison of Philadelphia, which was a favoured season. On Fifth-day we attended a burial; and going the next day to London, and resting there the day following, we were

at Wandsworth Meeting in Surry, on First-day.

'We left it in the afternoon, for Esher, visited the families there, had a meeting at Kingston, and another at Croydon, and saw the Friends of two or three other meetings in our way to the Quarterly Meeting of Surry, held at Godalming, which we attended to satisfaction. We were also at a burial at Guildford, and calling at Wanborough, near that town, went thence home in two days, arriving at Melksham the 8th of the Fourth Month, 1797.'

CHAP. VIII.

Two experiences—journey to Wales—extract of a letter—yearly meeting—three memorandums—visits Ireland again—her letter relative to that subject—short account of the journey—letter from Cork—from Castlebank—from Rathfriland—extracts from others—an experience—paper found without date.

DURING the interval between the Eastern journey related in the foregoing chapter, and one taken in the same year in nearly an opposite direction, our friend was favoured with the experience related in the two following memorandums:

Melksham, 16th of Sixth Month, 1797.

This morning, when alone, my soul was sweetly, unutterably so, over-shadowed with the love and precious presence of the Belov-

ed of my Soul; who was pleased to break in upon it with the effusion of adorable kindness; under which I was enabled to supplicate the King of kings, through the medium of the pure Spirit of his Son, the Lamb immaculate, for preservation, and ability to such a poor despicable worm, to do whatsoever he might be pleased to employ me in; and humbly to crave preservation through this vale of tears; and at the close of time, that my poor spirit, through his adorable mercy, might be granted admittance, where for ever I might worship Him, with the Lord Jesus. Amen.—This, after a time of deep baptism.'

1st of Eighth Month, 1797.

'This morning, sweetly opened into the divine mystery of the coming of the adorable Son of the Highest, with the salutation of the angel to the mother of our dear Lord, attended with the precious feeling of his pure redeeming love to mankind, in order to purify, so as to make meet for union and communion with Him while here, and everlast-

ingly to dwell with Him in a glorious eternity. O, my soul, mayest thou ever reverently worship and adore, with awful fear, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who is for ever worthy, and is still permitting babes and sucklings to bless and praise his holy name.

Her next journey was again into Wales, and Mary Jefferys was again her companion. North Wales was a principal object; but the families of Friends of Worcester, and a few meetings in Warwickshire, were included in the prospect; and either by name or implication provided for in the certificate. We have little account of the performance of this journey.

The following extract of a letter written at Pontypool, will show her feelings at the out-set, as her remark when she returned her certificate may, on the accomplishment of the journey.

'30*th Ninth Month*, 1797.

'My spirit rejoices at being favoured with the unity of the brethren. It is a great strength in low dipping seasons, which are often my portion. We have now entered the principality,* cousin Mary Jefferys and myself, and our kind friend Joseph Naish (of Congersbury in Somersetshire) has, I think, freely given up to accompany us into North Wales. The prospect of this mountainous country, the season of the year, for my poor creaking tabernacle, is not without discouragement; but I endeavour to look from them, and humbly, as much as possible, lean on Him who is strength in weakness, riches in poverty, and a true helper in the needful time, to the poor little ones, that trust in him, and [have] not in all the earth,

* There may be thought to be here an inaccuracy, Monmouthshire being called an English county—that is as to the judges' circuit. But the Welch language and manners prevail there as much as in some other Welch counties; and it is esteemed Welch so far as our meetings are concerned.

any thing that they desire in comparison of Him.'

In the Twelfth Month, she had accomplished her visit; and she intimated to her Monthly Meeting that she had been divinely helped to pursue the prospects before her. The lonely situation of Friends in North Wales, seemed to have excited her sympathy, as was the case on a former visit, and she reminded her friends at home of their superior accommodations, as a cause for gratitude on their part.

She attended the Yearly Meeting in 1798, which is the only journey of which there is any account: but the following are interesting memorandums of that year.

'10th of Second Month, 1798. My mind was sweetly consoled, after a season of deep hidden conflict, only known to Him, who sees his poor, mournful, stripped ones. But for ever blessed be his holy name, who continues to be, to the poor wrestling mind, a refuge-tower, a place of defence, where, in the appointed season, bread is given, and water is sure.

'28th of Second Month. This morning, hope was comfortably renewed, in the continuation of the heavenly Father's all-sustaining, protecting, directing, holy arm of power, after a time of close trial both of body and mind. In unutterable condescension, I was also given to taste of the sweetness, which the safe-landed are in the full possession of; and an humble hope was raised that, through adorable mercy, I should, when my conflicts are ended, be permitted to live in his holy presence for ever.

'22d of Tenth Month, 1798. Yesterday I was sixty years old. O, that the few days that may be added to my exercised allotment may be spent, according to my small measure, to the honour of my blessed Lord and Master, who hath graciously been near for my help, and support, from my infant years to the present day; and that gratitude and humble dedication, may be the constant companion of my tried mind; and that I may not in seasons of close besetment, when fiery trials may surround, let go the anchor of hope and confidence in Him who hath

been near in six troubles; and that a grain of living faith in his adorable mercy may be granted, that he will support in the seventh. Thus, O Lord, be pleased to keep to the end, that at the end, through thy adorable mercy, my poor spirit may be admitted within the gates of thy holy city, for ever to live in thy presence. Thus, O, Lord, be pleased to do for me, one of the least.'

In the Second Month, 1799, she applied for a certificate for the purpose of again visiting Ireland. Ireland was then the scene of civil war, which rendered the prospect of travelling in it alarming to her natural fears. The following letter to her relation Joseph Storrs, of Chesterfield, will show the manner in which it affected her.

Melksham, 21st of Second Month, 1799.

'MY BELOVED COUSIN,

'I received thy truly acceptable lines. Indeed I think it a favour to be remembered

by my beloved friends; and it is particularly so in low proving seasons, when the billows seem ready to overwhelm: which indeed has been, and is yet at times, the case with me, under the present awful prospect of what I apprehend is required duty. It is to visit the nation of Ireland, a prospect truly awful, as well as hazardous in various respects, under which nature shudders; but may He who has an undoubted right to send by whom it pleaseth him, but keep my eye and heart mercifully stayed upon him in simple faith, love, and obedience; so that if unmerciful men should be permitted to inflict hardships or death, if but the best life is preserved, it will be an unspeakable favour.

'I have had this prospect many years, and for the last twelve months, I did not expect so long a suspension; but of late time [the concern] came so heavy, with a belief that I must no longer delay, that, at our last Monthly Meeting, I opened and spread my prospect before Friends: under which, I believe many minds were brought into near sympathy. As going out of the nation re-

quires the approbation of the Quarterly Meeting, should no obstruction arise, and my poor feeble frame be enabled to move, it cannot be before the latter end of next month. My beloved relations, I have no doubt of having your tender sympathy; and I also crave your prayers for the preservation of my best life; and that the cause of Truth and righteousness may not in any wise suffer through me—not, if the mighty ocean should prove my grave.

I remain your nearly, affectionate, exercised cousin,

S. S. jun.'

The latter part of this letter is addressed to J. Storrs and his wife.

Sarah received in the Third Month a certificate of the full concurrence of Friends of her Monthly Meeting; yet solicitude for her personal safety engaged the minds of many. She was herself also not wholly free from apprehension. It was therefore thought not unsuitable that some friends should meet and have a serious conference, in order to

consider of the right time for her to set forward on her journey; which, as has been said, wore an aspect of some peril. They met accordingly, but the result of their deliberation was a belief that it was best to commit her to the protecting care of the Lord, who had thus called her forth into religious service; and whose tender mercies are over all his works.

The account which she has left of this journey is short, and, except as to the voyage, far from being so circumstantial as probably the interest which the reader may feel, would induce him to desire. After this manner she relates,

'The Tenth of the Fourth Month, 1799, I left home with my former dear companion, Mary Jefferys, jun. under the awful prospect of paying a religious visit to the nation of Ireland, if the way should open, and it should appear practicable in the perilous state of things in that land. In the way there, we attended a Quarterly Meeting at Shrewsbury, to a good degree of satisfac-

tion. We proceeded the same day, and the 20th, reached Holyhead to dinner; and about nine o'clock the same evening went aboard a packet for Ireland. A little before we left the inn an awful but sweet covering spread over us, under which we were baptized, so that fear was much taken away, and more than usual strength seemed afforded in the needful time. It is thou, Almighty Father, who art the supporter and preserver of thy poor depending children, under the shadow of whose wing is safety in every time of danger.

We had rather a slack side wind so that the vessel made but little speed, but rolled much, and we were also becalmed about two hours, when I was affected with sickness, yet not to so great a degree as at some times. But He in whose hand the winds are, was mercifully pleased to keep my mind in such a state of calmness as calls for reverent thankfulness. About Eight, on Second-day morning, the 22d, we landed at Dublin, attended the Yearly Meeting there, which began the 27th, afterwards visited the diffe-

rent meetings of Friends, also families at Cork, Limerick, Youghall, Moat, Dublin, and Enniscorthy, staid the Yearly Meeting in Dublin, in 1800; and then, accompanied by our kind friend Joseph Williams of Dublin, the 8th of the Fifth Month, went to Waterford. Next evening we embarked for Milford, where, after a trying passage, the wind being unfavourable, we landed about Nine on First-day morning, the 11th, and had a meeting with the few friends there in the evening. Next day, we had an appointed meeting at Haverfordwest, and then proceeded directly homeward, and reached Melksham the 15th after a laborious and perilous journey.

Here is the account of a year's labour dispatched in a few lines; but though our friend has been here thus brief in description, the chasm may be well supplied by some letters to her relations, written during the journey.

The first extract is from one to her cousin, Joseph Storrs.

'*Cork*, 18*th of Seventh Month*, 1799.

'For some weeks past, we have been closely engaged in visiting families here; but as my beloved relations, I know, are much interested in our welfare, I shall endeavour to give a little account of our movements since leaving Dublin. We attended the Yearly Meeting, a time of deep exercise; but gracious help was mercifully granted, for a simple discharge of duty; but to relate some things respecting this land would not be best until we may be favoured to meet, if so in the orderings of best Wisdom. We left Dublin on the Fifth day after the close of the Yearly Meeting, went that day to Ballitore, and the next morning to the Monthly Meeting at Carlow; a place thronged with military men, and where much blood had been shed; from thence to Kilconner, and so to Enniscorthy, where grievous devastation has been made. We lodged at a friends' house at the foot of Vinegar Hill, where

such numbers of lives were lost; and the friend had been taken up the hill by the insurgents, after having taken leave of his wife and family, expecting to be shot; but they were not permitted to do him any personal injury. We went from thence to Ballintore, to Coolandine and Forrest, where Friends had suffered very greatly in their property, and had expected to lose their lives. At one friends' house at Forrest, about eight men came with full purpose to murder, as was believed, and they queried one of another why they did not begin, saying, what did they come for. But as the friend and the family were with them in the kitchen, such a calm came over them that it was like a solemn meeting, so that the men seemed to be chained by a power that they could not account for, and went away without doing the family any personal injury. Many women were waiting in the court; ready, as was believed, to plunder when the men had murdered. These women seemed much disappointed at losing the booty.

'Many other affecting accounts we had in passing from place to place through the county of Wexford. In one place we passed near a barn in which one hundred and seventy protestants were burned alive; and we saw hundreds of houses in ruins in passing along. Though the accounts in England were affecting (Youghall, 23d) I think they did not by far come up to what we have heard from friends here. The last place we were at in the county of Wexford was Ross, where the wonderful interposition of Providence was such, that General Johnson, who was chief in command, said, as I was informed, that that day's work must not be attributed to man, but to the Almighty. Ross is about eight miles from Waterford.

'Before I drop this moving subject, it seems right to mention the wonderful protecting arm of the Most High round the members of our society, so that none (except one who left the house and fled to arms for protection, lost their lives in these violent commotions: for many other innocent protestants were cruelly murdered. I have

repeatedly had to say, that the singular protection of Providence ought to be written as with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond on the hearts of Friends: never to be erased.

'Our kind friend Robert Fowler [her townsman who had gone over with her] accompanied us, through the county of Wexford to Waterford, where he left us; and where we staid near two weeks, and made many calls, like visiting families as far as it went. The next place was Clonmel, where we staid about a week, and were employed in a like manner, though not in a regular one. The next place was the meeting at Garryrone, and so to Youghall, where we staid six days, and were not wholly idle. The next place was Cork, where a partial visit would not be accepted; and though the prospect was deeply affecting, yet as it appeared the way to peace, we entered on the arduous service in humble fear, and went through about eighty visits; but the Quarterly Meeting for Munster coming on, to be held at Youghall, it seemed right to attend

it, and we have left the rest of the families until our return.

'Being now at Youghall and the Quarterly Meeting being over, I think we may thankfully say, that the Master graciously condescended to own, with his good presence, in this day of danger and dismay. Ah! the children's safety depends, on all occasions on their going down to the valley and choosing the smooth stones for their slings, and then waiting for holy direction and power to convey them. O, may I be preserved through the perilous day in this land, and every future day of my life, if many days are allotted me by divine Wisdom: though that does not seem very likely; for my frame seems considerably shaken since I came into this land.

The following extract of a letter written on the way from Cork to Limerick, and at the latter place, gives an account of the com-

pletion of the family visit, and of her final farewell to the Friends of Cork.

'*Castlebank*, 9*th of Eighth Month*, 1799.

'MY BELOVED COUSIN,

I now sit down to salute you by a line after the close of an arduous visit to the families at Cork, which was much extended by taking in all who attended our meetings, whether in membership or not.

We have been closely engaged, and, through the renewed daily help of the Shepherd of Israel, were enabled to finish the evening before the last; and yesterday attended their meeting, in which had to take a sweet and solemn leave.'

After some further narration not material to insert, she adds, 'may all within us bless his holy name, thankfully acknowledging that hitherto the Lord hath helped us; and humbly beg that he will be pleased to continue near to preserve us, and direct all our movements, that so they may meet with holy acceptance, and our poor spirits be favoured with that

peace, which the world can neither give nor take away.

'Limerick 11th. We were favoured to get here on Seventh-day evening, safe, though a good deal fatigued. Yesterday we attended both the meetings, and to-morrow is the Monthly Meeting, after which, I apprehend, we shall not find ourselves excused without sitting in the families, which is fresh cause of abasement, and reduction to the natural will, that so much desires to look towards a release, in order again to meet our beloved friends in our native land. But as we came not in our own wills, but I humbly trust in the Master's, may it be done in and by us through time; and then, the various cups assigned us being drunk (which at times may seem mingled very bitter), we may hope that adorable mercy will permit our spirits to rest for ever with him, in his blessed kingdom, where no alloy is known. This will be an ample reward for every season of conflict.'

The following is not indeed descriptive of her Irish journey; but as it breathes the true language of consolation, and shows that a mind closely engaged in fulfilling its own share of religious duty, is still open to sympathy for the distresses of others, its insertion may please and benefit the reader.

'*Rathfriland*, 19*th Eleventh Month*, 1799.

'I find it a task to address my beloved cousin, after an event that so nearly affects her, and in which I am a large sharer. But resignation to the divine will is our duty, under the consoling evidence that my beloved friend and relation is taken from a scene of pain and trial, to a place in that glorious kingdom where no alloy is known, for ever to rest with Him whose glory the heaven of heavens cannot contain. These considerations forbid [us] to *mourn*; though to *feel* when such tender ties are broken, I trust, is not displeasing to him who wept over Lazarus: especially when [we are] enabled reverently to say, thy will, O gracious Father, be done. Ah! may these dispensations of

unerring wisdom, be a means of more closely uniting our spirits to Him, who is the way, the truth, and the life; that so we may indeed more feelingly know that our "Redeemer liveth:" and that because he liveth we live. May I think nothing hard that my gracious God may be pleased to order for me in this wilderness, and vale of tears, that so, when my measure of suffering is filled up, my poor exercised spirit may rest with Him who has been near in six troubles, and I humbly hope will not leave in the seventh:—and may his ever blessed arm of help and tender succour be near, for thy preservation and support.'

The remaining extracts are from letters to Joseph Storrs. They conduct the reader through much of the remainder of the journey, and show the state of her devoted mind at its close, when safely returned to her own habitation. The letter which first occurs has several dates. It was begun in Ulster province, and finished at Dublin.

'My dear cousin's truly acceptable lines have lain much longer unanswered than has felt easy to me; but the frequent and deep baptisms that have been my portion in this land and particularly in this province [Ulster] have rendered my mind unfit for saluting my beloved friends in a manner that I would desire to do; though I think they were never more dear to me than since leaving my native land. But I desire not to utter the language of complaint with regard to *my* sufferings; but for the cause, and them that make *it* suffer, I mourn. I desire I may patiently drink what further cups may be assigned to me, and be willing to suffer with the seed, which is indeed sorely oppressed. But, under all, my dear cousin, the good Shepherd has been pleased to be mercifully near, to enable in a good degree to discharge what has appeared to be required duty; though my passing along has been as under the mountains, and fears have at times so taken hold of my poor mind, as to doubt of living through: and indeed my frame is weakened considerably since being

here; but with this I am not dismayed, if the best life is but preserved. The Quarterly Meeting for Ulster is coming on, after which I hope we may soon feel a release from this province, and go to Dublin, which is in the province of Leinster, where are four meetings unvisited. I hope we may look towards our own dear land, with a belief that we have endeavoured to do what we could; and if it be the blessed Master's will to bring us over the great deep in safety, that all within us will be enabled to bless his holy Name. But I dare not build upon, or much please myself with, the hope of a speedy release; though not without a little or faint expectation of it.

'My beloved cousins, you are near to me, and I do believe I am favoured to have a place in your remembrance with desires for my preservation every way. Well, may the God of all grace be with you and yours, and with us poor pilgrims; and if he see meet to favour us to meet in mutability, I humbly hope it will be with thanksgiving and praises to his holy Name.

'Dear Charity Cook [of South Carolina] is confined here with the small pox. They have been out three days, and not a large burden, and at present not unfavourable symptoms appear.

'Stramore, 29th of Eleventh Month, five miles from Lurgan, where we intended to go to-morrow, to attend the Quarterly Meeting.—We are returned from the Quarterly Meeting and found dear Charity very ill, the doctor doubting her getting over that night, but yesterday and to-day the disorder seems more favourable.

'6th of Twelfth Month. The attendance of the Quarterly Meeting, with some other meetings there, was closely exercising; but I trust we were in our right places, as on my return I felt peacefulness; and as to great things I do not expect them, being one of the little ones, but desire to be faithful to what the Master may be pleased to require, though through very deep baptisms, which indeed has been the case in the attendance

of this Quarterly Meeting.* Hannah Barnard and companion are here.

Dublin, 11th of Twelfth Month, 1799. We got here last evening much fatigued. We left Charity Cook with the appearance of a favourable recovery.'

Enniscorthy, 4th of Fourth Month, 1800.

'THE cause of my not writing arose from a hope of a more speedy release from this land; and though the detention has been long, and much increased by the large field of labour in Dublin, yet I dare not question the propriety of it; as I had painfully to taste what the consequence of omission would have been. The service was very arduous, extending to comers to meeting, and disowned persons, so that with these and the members we had more than two hundred and thirty sittings; which were not finished before Sixth-day week in the evening; and we left Dublin next morning for

* This is the district in which, not long after, so much dissension prevailed, and where many left the Society of Friends.

pletion of the family visit, and of her final farewell to the Friends of Cork.

'*Castlebank, 9th of Eighth Month*, 1799.

'MY BELOVED COUSIN,

I now sit down to salute you by a line after the close of an arduous visit to the families at Cork, which was much extended by taking in all who attended our meetings, whether in membership or not.

We have been closely engaged, and, through the renewed daily help of the Shepherd of Israel, were enabled to finish the evening before the last; and yesterday attended their meeting, in which had to take a sweet and solemn leave.'

After some further narration not material to insert, she adds, 'may all within us bless his holy name, thankfully acknowledging that hitherto the Lord hath helped us; and humbly beg that he will be pleased to continue near to preserve us, and direct all our movements, that so they may meet with holy acceptance, and our poor spirits be favoured with that

peace, which the world can neither give nor take away.

'Limerick 11th. We were favoured to get here on Seventh-day evening, safe, though a good deal fatigued. Yesterday we attended both the meetings, and to-morrow is the Monthly Meeting, after which, I apprehend, we shall not find ourselves excused without sitting in the families, which is fresh cause of abasement, and reduction to the natural will, that so much desires to look towards a release, in order again to meet our beloved friends in our native land. But as we came not in our own wills, but I humbly trust in the Master's, may it be done in and by us through time; and then, the various cups assigned us being drunk (which at times may seem mingled very bitter), we may hope that adorable mercy will permit our spirits to rest for ever with him, in his blessed kingdom, where no alloy is known. This will be an ample reward for every season of conflict.'

The following is not indeed descriptive of her Irish journey; but as it breathes the true language of consolation, and shows that a mind closely engaged in fulfilling its own share of religious duty, is still open to sympathy for the distresses of others, its insertion may please and benefit the reader.

'*Rathfriland*, 19*th Eleventh Month*, 1799.

'I find it a task to address my beloved cousin, after an event that so nearly affects her, and in which I am a large sharer. But resignation to the divine will is our duty, under the consoling evidence that my beloved friend and relation is taken from a scene of pain and trial, to a place in that glorious kingdom where no alloy is known, for ever to rest with Him whose glory the heaven of heavens cannot contain. These considerations forbid [us] to *mourn*; though to *feel* when such tender ties are broken, I trust, is not displeasing to him who wept over Lazarus: especially when [we are] enabled reverently to say, thy will, O gracious Father, be done. Ah! may these dispensations of

unerring wisdom, be a means of more closely uniting our spirits to Him, who is the way, the truth, and the life; that so we may indeed more feelingly know that our "Redeemer liveth:" and that because he liveth we live. May I think nothing hard that my gracious God may be pleased to order for me in this wilderness, and vale of tears, that so, when my measure of suffering is filled up, my poor exercised spirit may rest with Him who has been near in six troubles, and I humbly hope will not leave in the seventh:—and may his ever blessed arm of help and tender succour be near, for thy preservation and support.'

The remaining extracts are from letters to Joseph Storrs. They conduct the reader through much of the remainder of the journey, and show the state of her devoted mind at its close, when safely returned to her own habitation. The letter which first occurs has several dates. It was begun in Ulster province, and finished at Dublin.

'My dear cousin's truly acceptable lines have lain much longer unanswered than has felt easy to me; but the frequent and deep baptisms that have been my portion in this land and particularly in this province [Ulster] have rendered my mind unfit for saluting my beloved friends in a manner that I would desire to do; though I think they were never more dear to me than since leaving my native land. But I desire not to utter the language of complaint with regard to *my* sufferings; but for the cause, and them that make *it* suffer, I mourn. I desire I may patiently drink what further cups may be assigned to me, and be willing to suffer with the seed, which is indeed sorely oppressed. But, under all, my dear cousin, the good Shepherd has been pleased to be mercifully near, to enable in a good degree to discharge what has appeared to be required duty; though my passing along has been as under the mountains, and fears have at times so taken hold of my poor mind, as to doubt of living through: and indeed my frame is weakened considerably since being

here; but with this I am not dismayed, if the best life is but preserved. The Quarterly Meeting for Ulster is coming on, after which I hope we may soon feel a release from this province, and go to Dublin, which is in the province of Leinster, where are four meetings unvisited. I hope we may look towards our own dear land, with a belief that we have endeavoured to do what we could; and if it be the blessed Master's will to bring us over the great deep in safety, that all within us will be enabled to bless his holy Name. But I dare not build upon, or much please myself with, the hope of a speedy release; though not without a little or faint expectation of it.

'My beloved cousins, you are near to me, and I do believe I am favoured to have a place in your remembrance with desires for my preservation every way. Well, may the God of all grace be with you and yours, and with us poor pilgrims; and if he see meet to favour us to meet in mutability, I humbly hope it will be with thanksgiving and praises to his holy Name.

CHAP. IX.

Visit to America—Letters—leaves home—embarks—the voyage—New York—family visit there—yellow fever—Long Island—various services—quits New York—journey to Philadelphia—family visit in Pine-Street Meeting—laid up—goes to Germantown—soon returns to the city—confined to the chamber—visit of Mehetabel Jenkins—state of mind, and expressions near the close—Her decease—abstract of a testimony, &c.—conclusion.

WE are now drawing towards the last travels of this indefatigable labourer. We have seen the early arisings in her heart of divine love. We have remarked its increase, and have had occasion to observe how she became willing to be the instrument of conveying to others, some portion of that bread, on which she delighted to feed. In pursuit of this object, and at the call of duty, we have

beheld her travelling in every district of these nations where Friends are settled. In proportion to the interest which we have taken in the narration, we may be said to have been the witnesses of her conflicts, and almost to have partaken in her baptisms. But neither her cup of suffering nor of consolation was by these completely filled. A prospect of further service had been long opening on her view; and when the right time, for opening on the labour, appeared to have arrived, she did not suffer her feeble health, already impaired by past exercises, to operate as an insurmountable discouragement. She had often been strengthened by faith; her faith, by this time, was strong by long experience; and she was prepared to follow her beloved Lord, either to life or death.

Thus in the Second Month, 1801, in a very weighty manner, she laid before her Monthly Meeting, her concern to visit Friends on the continent of North America: her feelings on which occasion cannot, probably, be better conveyed to the reader than

by the following extract of a letter to her relation, Joseph Storrs.

'*Melksham, 4th of Third Month*, 1801.

'I HAVE been confined to my chamber about a month, with a complaint, I believe, much owing to deep exercise of mind; and the first time of my getting to meeting was at our last Monthly Meeting: though under great weakness of body, and heavy exercise of mind. But, being reduced to obedience, I was enabled to lay before our Friends, a prospect which had for many years attended my mind. My dear cousin, it is nothing less than to go to America. I have admired that such a poor creature should be called to service of such magnitude; and so at times let in an apprehension that Friends would think me quite unfit; and then, I should be excused on that ground. But as the concern was spread before them, the meeting seemed dipped into great sympathy; and, I believe, under divine influence, the language of encouragement was in a tender affecting manner handed. So at home there seems no

obstruction; and if at London there should be none, and my health permit, its likely we shall soon prepare to embark. I say we, because my dear cousin Mary Jefferys felt herself so bound to the service, that she believed she should forfeit her peace if she did not give up to it; which, in a solemn manner she informed Friends of, at the same time: which was, I believe, very cordially united with.

'Now my dear cousin, thou and my dear cousin Mary have tenderly felt with me under varied [various] exercises; and indeed I now claim it afresh in a particular manner; with your prayers for preservation in every way: being indeed a poor creature, but very desirous of being preserved from bringing any shade on the blessed Truth, whatever becomes of this poor body.

'I remain thy truly affectionate, exercised cousin,

S. S.

To the foregoing, the succeeding extract of a letter to the same friend, is a suitable appendix. It further demonstrates the tenour of her mind; and leads through another step of the precaution enjoined by our discipline, as a preliminary to travels on religious service in foreign parts.

Melksham, 11th of Fourth Month, 1801.

'YOUR tender sympathy under the baptizing power of Truth, hath bowed my spirit under a sense of my unworthiness; and raised thankfulness for the near unity of my dear friends, on this awful prospect. May every future step of my life (a poor worm,) be ordered in the pure fear of Him who has a right to make use of the weak of this world: that so the continuation of this precious unity may be mercifully granted, to the close of my days, whether they be many or few. For oh! the unity of the brethren is to me exceeding precious; and even with this blessing, under the many conflicts and sore baptisms, in the course of my little experience in journeys, my faith hath often

been tried, as to an hair's breadth; and I do not expect an easier path; but how must it be without the unity and sympathy of Zion's faithful travellers?

'Our Quarterly Meeting was held here last week, when, to my humbling admiration, a current spread, of tender sympathy, and, as Friends expressed, of unity.

'I remain, &c.

S. S.'

AFTER this our friend attended the Yearly Meeting. In the meeting of ministers and elders, she opened her view of visiting the American continent with much weightiness of spirit, and obtained its concurrence and a certificate. Her services in the sittings of the Womens' Meeting, and the humility which appeared to clothe her mind, are said to be very edifying. She promoted and assisted in the writing of an epistle from that meeting, thus, as she expressed it, relieving herself of a little debt which she seemed to owe to her sisters in this land, before she left them, and as it proved finally.

Having now obtained the full concurrence of all the meetings which are appointed to watch over concerns of a nature so important, she returned home to Melksham, which town or its neighbourhood had been her residence, when she could be said to have a home, for nearly thirty years. But she soon left it again, and went to Bristol, her port of embarkation, in the latter part of the Sixth Month, accompanied by her justly dear friend, relation, and companion, Mary Jefferys, jun. who was also furnished with certificates of the full unity of Friends. About an hour before she went from home, being in her chamber, having only with her one of the sisters of her companion, who was much affected with the probability of a long separation, she said to her, 'I feel nothing more 'to do here. If I staid with you, I should be no comfort to you.' And she observed that the crown was at the end of the race.

Let us now attend to her own narration, which she has left nearly in the following words:

'The 8th of the Seventh Month, 1801, we went on board the ship Uncle Toby, Elihu Doty, captain, lying at Pill near Bristol. We staid two nights, but the wind being contrary, we came on shore the 10th to a frend's house about two miles distant, where we also staid two nights, and then were called up early, the wind being tolerably fair, though the weather was unsettled. The captain, being very anxious to get out, set sail; but in a few hours we had a-head wind, and a very rough sea, so that I apprehend we were in considerable danger. On Seventh day night,* I was very ill, not able to undress, but got into my birth. On First-day morning the pilot thought it best to run back from the Holmes to King-road, which we reached by noon, and then anchored. About three o'clock, I was helped out of my birth, and about five, we had a meeting in the cabin. The captain, his wife and sisters, also the pilot and some of the stee-

* Here is some mistake. She came on shore the 10th, which was Sixth-day. She says she staid two nights on shore. How then could she be sick on board on Seventh-day.

rage passengers sat with us. It was a season that I trust was owned by Him whose ways are ways of wonder. On Second-day, the 13th, in the afternoon, we went on shore again, but it was with difficulty that I got to our kind friend's house, feeling much bodily weakness; but there I was tenderly nursed. The stormy weather had occasioned our friends at Bristol to be very uneasy about us. On their being informed that we were on shore, my dear sister with divers others of our affectionate friends soon came to see us; and I believe, with us were reverently thankful to the great Preserver of men. It was a favourable circumstance to me that the wind continued unfair for several days, for in that time I recruited considerably; and on Sixth-day, the 17th, we went on board, and sailed about eleven o'clock in the morning: passing several vessels of different descriptions. The 18th, towards evening, we cast anchor in sight of Ilfracombe, Devonshire, and lay by a few hours waiting for the tide. The next day being come to Lundy-island, the pilot left us early in the morning; and

this day we lost sight of English ground. On the 23d having had a brisk wind since the 19th, and part of the time pretty much aft, we had got forward upwards of six hundred miles. The next day the wind was right ahead; and the 25th a brisk gale, with lightning and a pretty heavy storm in the morning. In the afternoon a vessel hailed ours by a gun, and soon made up to us, put out the boat, and sent an officer on board to examine the captain. But he soon returned as we were not a prize for this ship, which was a ship of the line, called the St. Alban's from Nova Scotia, bound for Plymouth or Portsmouth, and convoying two ships laden with masts. 1st of the Eighth Month. For several days many of the passengers have been very sick, in part from the great motion of the vessel, particularly one night which was almost tempestuous. The 10th we got near, or quite on to the grand banks of Newfoundland; and the next day a boat from our vessel went to a fishing schooner that lay pretty near, from which we had a plentiful supply of cod-fish; and

besides these our men caught many large ones. The 12th the sailors saw a log floating which they took in tow. A great number of small fish soon followed it, some of which were taken, and proved very good. The log was nearly covered with barnacles, which I believe, attracted the small fish. The 13th, we were in 54 fathoms water, and the 14th got off the banks of Newfoundland, the weather being much warmer. On First-day, the 23d, the wind was quite a-head. After we were gone to bed, the mate called up the captain, apprehending danger. It proved to be a sea-race. There was also thunder, lightning, and heavy rain for some time, so that we had a disturbed night. The next day the wind continued a-head, and we came to soundings in sixty fathoms water, near George's bank. On the 25th, was a fine morning and a fair wind, and we went seven knots an hour. In the afternoon, the wind was rough, and there was a swell of the sea, so that it was with difficulty we could keep our seats; but it became stiller by bed-time.

'The 27th of the Eighth Month we shall have been on board six weeks to-morrow; and I apprehend we are now about two hundred miles from New York. The passage thus far has on the whole been favourable, though not without storms of thunder, lightning and rain, with high and squally winds, but not of long continuance. Indeed the language may justly be adopted, "Great and "marvellous are thy works, Lord God Al"mighty. Just and true are thy ways, thou "King of saints."

'To relate all I have passed through from various causes, would take much time and paper, neither do I feel much inclination to attempt it. Let it lie buried in the deep recesses of my heart, until called for, for the benefit of poor tried travellers, or to have recourse to, for my own instruction, benefit and encouragement. And may I be qualified to say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," being thereby enabled to drink the future bitter cups that may be assigned, with increasing submission and willingness: that so the reward of the willing servant may

be mercifully granted to me, one of the weaklings of the flock. When I have been led to look back, and to remember the unity and sympathy, which my dear friends expressed, it has caused me greatly to admire and, being permitted to feel something of a sweetly cementing fellowship of spirit, since enclosed in this floating house, may I be so preserved, and enabled so to move, that my spirit may be permitted to unite with the Lord's humble tribulated faithful servants, in the land to which I am bound; that no reflection may be cast on those who have certified for me, nor on those who publicly or privately expressed their unity, and tender sympathy; but, *above all* that the blessed cause may have no shade brought on it through me.

'About Five in the afternoon, the 28th, the captain espied land, which proved to be Long-island. It was seen pretty clearly; but the wind being quite a-head, we could not get forward: a light squall in the evening. On the 30th, the wind was fair, but we lost sight of land for a while. In the

evening a pilot came on board, and informed us that New York is healthy. We lay at anchor that night, and next day moved early in the morning, the weather rough, with thunder, lightning, and rain. In the afternoon, we were favoured to land safe, and were kindly received at Robert Boune's, who came with a boat, and conducted us from the vessel to his house. My mind with my dear companions* were, I believe, deeply humbled with acknowledgements to the God of all grace, for the favour of being brought safe to land.

'On our arrival at New York, or a day or two afterwards, the weather became extremely hot, which, with the musquitos, after being much exhausted with sickness at sea, and confinement on ship-board, was very trying: so that a little rest in the country was highly needful, and proved salutary.

* Besides her companion Mary Jefferys, there went in the same ship Samuel Smith, of Philadelphia, a ministering friend, returning from a religious visit to friends in Ireland, and some parts of England.

After this we went on the Main,† and visited five meetings; then passing again through New-York, to Long-island, we visited meetings there. After this, we returned to the city, and I laid before the members of the meeting of ministers and elders, a concern to visit the families; with which they concurred: and the Yellow Fever having broken out, it was an engagement increasingly solemn. Yet feeling it right to begin, and many of the members being in the country, we visited divers of those families, as it was not thought prudent for us to be much in the city; and I trust and believe it was in the right time; a season when the rod seemed to be awfully held over the city; and when the gracious gathering arm of Omnipotence was extended, for the help of those who were willing to be gathered.

'Now the Quarterly Meeting to be held on Long-island coming on, it seemed right

† New York stands on an island, separated from the continent by a narrow channel, which extends from the North, or Hudson's River, to what is called the East River, but which is rather an arm of the sea, on the north of Long-Island.

to attend it; so we crossed the East river, at a ferry called Hurlgate, and rode to Flushing where it was held. The meeting of ministers and elders was held the 21st of the Tenth Month, a season of deep exercise, but owned by the Master. That day I was sixty-three years of age. On the 22nd, the men and women sat together for about an hour, during which a good degree of solemnity was felt to spread: then separating, each part went to its business. It was a time of deep exercise to me. I was led into very close, but affectionate labour; and I humbly hope the meeting ended to satisfaction. On the 23d was a large public meeting, in which my spirit was deeply baptized and after sitting about one hour in silence, which to me was solemn and awful, I felt it my place to stand up, to deliver matter as it might open, much of which was very close and searching; but a stream of comfort and encouragement flowed to the exercised travailers: and of this description there are on this island; unto whom my poor and deeply exercised soul was united. On the 25th,

we went to Westbury, and after meeting the next day at Westbury, to Newtown. The 27th, we again crossed the ferry, and went to Mamaroneck about twenty-three miles, and next day to the meeting of ministers and elders at Purchase, which began at Ten, and was a low exercising time. On the day following was the meeting for business, and while the men and women sat together, I was closely engaged: but gracious help was afforded, under the covering of love, to deal plainly. There was also a large public meeting, in which I was largely exercised. I humbly trust, life was felt in a good degree over the meeting. In the afternoon we rode to Mamaroneck, and the 30th to Harlem.

'Though deep and close baptisms, and close exercise, have been my daily portion, yet I have cause for reverent thankfulness, for having been mercifully helped thus far; and I humbly hope the cause of Truth has not suffered by me.'

Here ended her memorandums; but in a letter, dated near Rahway, the 28th and

30th of the First Month, 1802, she mentions the accomplishment of the family-visit at New York, nearly as follows:

'Though my mind was often low, yet merciful Goodness was underneath, so that through the renewing of daily help, that arduous service at New York was finished under the feeling of peaceful serenity. We had about two hundred and eighty sittings, besides attending meetings, and other opportunities of religious service: so that I was much spent, and my poor shattered frame wanted to be recruited by a little rest. But New York did not seem the place for it, though the kind friends at whose house we lodged, although our stay was so long, manifested, if it could be, increased sympathy and love. So, feeling easy to leave the city, my desire was strong to be moving forward, and as the roads at that time were bad, went, on the 23d of the First Month on board a small vessel, to Elizabeth Town Point, in Jersey. After taking refreshment there, we went in a waggon provided for us to Rahway; and the next day, being First-

day, attended the two meetings there. Second-day forenoon was spent in visiting a school and some families. In the afternoon we came here [the place of writing] and was taken so unwell, that I could hold up no longer, but soon got to bed, my head being in violent pain, with great oppression on my chest, attended with spasms. After being prevailed on to take some medicine, I was somewhat relieved of the pain in my head; and if I continue mending I hope we may set off in a few days for Philadelphia, without taking many meetings by the way, as the roads are yet very bad.

The 31st, being better, though yet very weak, she proceeded accordingly, attending, by the way, the meetings of Plainfield, Stoneybrook, Trenton, and Bristol, in all of which she was strengthened to labour, under the influence of that pure love, which seasoned her communications, and evidently made way for them, to the edification or comfort of others, and to the peace of her mind. The 8th of the Second Month, she went to Frankford, where, being more un-

well, and having a rash out, and the weather being cold, she did not attend the week-day meeting held that day; but in the afternoon being met by her dear friend Sarah Harrison, whom she had known in England, when on a religious visit there, and by some other friends from Philadelphia, she was desirous of returning with them the same evening as the distance was easy.

After arriving at Thomas Harrison's where she met with a very cordial reception, several friends of the city called to speak to her. To one who asked her how she did, she replied, 'She was but poorly;' and added, rather in a pleasant manner, 'Will 'ye give me about six feet of ground? I 'don't know but I am come to lay down my 'poor body amongst you.' Sarah Harrison, as well as others, was affectionately desirous of her taking rest, which appeared needful; but after being nursed within, a few days, she went to meeting, and for several weeks attended the meetings in the city, generally as they came in course. The three Monthly Meetings there happened about that time,

in which she produced her certificates, and had some tendering opportunities, which, as she afterwards remarked, were relieving to her mind.* But she still continued languid; yet she imparted to Friends a view which she had of visiting the families belonging to Pine-street Meeting. This was acceptable information, and cordially received; but a desire was expressed by some, that there might not be a pressing forward beyond her strength. The engagement was accordingly entered on the 9th of the Third Month; but her weakness was such, that three visits in the day were more than she was equal to without being much fatigued. She was therefore again obliged to submit to lie by

* About this time twelve or more Indians, coming to Philadelphia on business, had a conference with Friends; to whom they applied for help or information. At this conference Sarah Stephenson was present, and was engaged to address them in a feeling suitable manner. Her address being interpreted to them, they expressed, in their way, much satisfaction and approbation. They were told by Nicholas Waln from whence she came, and on what account she had crossed the mighty waters. At parting, they appeared grave and solid, and were earnest to shake hands with her.

to be nursed; but she said, that 'the mak-'ing of the attempt had afforded her satisfac-'tion, whether she lived to move further in 'it or not.'

After a while, as her strength did not increase, nor her complaints lessen, she was advised to go into the country for change of air; so she went to the house of a kind friend at Germantown, where she continued near two weeks and once attended the meeting; but for the most part kept her room. She thought the air rather salutary at first; but not finding any material benefit, she returned to the city, and went to the house of Samuel Fisher, it being within the district where she had begun her family visit: her increased weakness was apparent by her not bearing the ride back, which was about seven miles, without much more fatigue than she experienced in going. She went soon to her chamber, and after the 4th of the Fourth Month, which was First-day, she came down stairs but once. On that First-day, she was desirous of attending Pine-street Meeting, which she did; but

she was then in so weak a state that her being there was matter of surprise to some. To a friend who was discouraging the attempt, fearing the fatigue would be too much for her, she said with great emphasis, *I love to go to meeting! I love to go to meeting:** and she remarked that 'she had sometimes 'surprised her friends at home by going 'from her chamber to meeting when very 'poorly, and that at times she thought she 'felt less pain and weakness of body there 'than at home;' and she added, 'that those 'who used their utmost endeavours thus to 'meet with their friends, would, she believed, have satisfaction in looking back on it, 'when deprived of that privilege.'

From this day, she was wholly confined to her room, and the 9th she took to her bed, only leaving it in order to have it made for several days. Afterwards she seemed rather better again, and sat up a considerable time in the middle of the day; but she generally

* This is a signal and encouraging testimony, from the mouth of one, whose frequent allotment in meetings had been deep travail, exercise and baptism.

had very disturbed nights, being troubled with her cough and a restlessness from fever. She could bear but little company, stillness affording her complaints more alleviation than the kindness of friends in any other way could afford: and therefore she saw but few. But Mehetabel Jenkins of Berwick, in Massachusetts, who, as has been related, had known her in England, being in the city on religious service, and desirous to see her, paid her an acceptable visit. On the 12th sitting by her bedside, after a time of silence, she sweetly addressed her, in testimony of her belief that the present dispensation was of the Lord, who does all for the best; though his workings were sometimes in a way past our finding out; yet always right; and that whatever might be the termination of her bodily indisposition, she believed all would be well with her, and that *there was nothing in her way;* but that He whom she had long loved, and faithfully followed would be with her to the end; that she felt great sweetness in sitting by her, and had an apprehension that she was near being gathered

to the sabbath of rest. With more in a comfortable way, bidding her dearly farewell. At that time, Sarah said very little; but a few days after, referring to Mehetabel's visit, she said, 'Dear Mehetabel, if her view 'should be verified, it would be great favour 'to me. I was very low in body, and so 'weak at that time, that it seemed as though 'I could hardly lift up my hand or move. 'I did not chuse to say so then; but it did 'feel to me that *there was nothing in the 'way.*' She also added, 'It affords me no 'pleasure, when any one speaks of my re-'covery being likely; for through merci-'ful kindness, I humbly hope all would be 'well if I was taken now; and if I stay long-'er, it might not be better: so that none 'should desire my continuance in this state 'of being, subject to conflict, and trials, of 'which I have endured so long a share; and 'even since being in this city deep have been 'my baptisms, only fully known to my own 'soul, and Him who knows for what cause 'they are my portion.'

The 19th and 20th, she appeared rather better, and sat up part of each day. She said she understood the doctor thought her better, but that she did not feel herself so. She inquired whether any thought she indulged too much, by thus lying by to be nursed, and she frequently acknowledged 'what a favour it was that her allotment at this time was with such as were not only freely disposed, but of ability, to render [her] every comfortable accommodation, which her situation required.'

Early in the morning on the 21st, she said she had been thinking much in the night of a young man, for whom she had been religiously concerned; and she desired to have something written, that she wished to be conveyed to him; but in general since her confinement, exercise of mind on account of others, seemed mostly taken from her; having, as she observed when in better health, done what she could; and now wished others might feel for themselves.

The 22d, a friend proposing to read a letter from one she knew, and loved, she asked

whether it was interesting. A part of it was read; but as she appeared indifferent, the friend left off, lest it should fatigue her. On this, she said, 'I seem to be got past these 'things;' and added after a pause, 'by saying so, I mean I do not wish to have my attention drawn out.' The same day, in a clear weighty manner she commissioned a friend with a salutation she felt to Friends in her native land.

The 23d, about Five o'clock in the morning, she was seized with a hard cough, which continued, without much respite for nearly or quite an hour, with a great discharge of heavy phlegm, so that she seemed almost exhausted, and it left symptoms which encouraged her hope that her release from the conflicts of time was near. About the middle of the day she gave some directions respecting the disposal of her clothes; naming some who had come under her notice, to whom she thought little legacies might be acceptable and useful: her tender feeling for those in straitened circumstances, which was great, continuing to the last. Her companion be-

ing much affected with distress, Sarah took her by the hand, and affectionately entreated her not to give way to it; saying, 'She did 'not know how it might be. She might yet 'recover; but it would be unkind to covet 'her continuance, for whilst here, she ex-'pected to be a cripple, the weakness of her 'limbs was so great, particularly her right 'side.' She also remarked what a favour it was to her companion to be left among so many friends, who would extend their tender care, and that she believed she would be supported and rewarded; desiring that 'she 'would not grieve for *her*, as if consistent 'with the will of her good Master, it would 'be far better for her to be removed then; 'and that she had never expected or desired 'to cross the water again.' One day the doctor proposing something to strengthen her stomach, she said to him, with a smile on her countenance, 'Doctor, I did not want 'thee to strengthen me. When I look to-'wards going, it feels so pleasant, that it seems 'like a trial to return.'

The 24th, she said to one who was affected by observing her increasing weakness—'Don't be at all uneasy, I have been sweetly comforted by my good Master's presence.' To a friend who remarked that her "bed had been made in sickness." 'Yes,' said she, 'Wonderfully so.' Being then asked how she felt respecting her recovery, she replied, 'I have no prospect of it. I believe I have finished the work. There is nothing in the way. I have no care, but on account of my dear child.' By this term she meant her companion, and addressing her, she added, 'But, my dear, thou hadst nothing else to expect when we left home.' Something being proposed for her to take, she said, 'My friends propose things which I sometimes comply with; but it seems precious to look towards release.'

Her companion having told her that she felt quite satisfied in having come, and that she thought it a favour to be with her at that time, even if, by means of Sarah's removal, she should be left thus far from her native land, and her friends there, Sarah seemed al-

most overcome with joy; and said, 'Now 'how glad I am, how glad I am, that thou 'hast told me this. It is enough, Oh, it is 'a great comfort to me. Now I hope my 'good Master will soon take me to rest; and 'thou wilt be supported, and rewarded. 'There is little here but trials, disappoint-'ments, and conflicts. Now don't hold me, 'my dear.' Then she seemed as if she would soon sink away; but was heard to say, in a low, but melodious voice, '*Glory, glory.*' Soon after there came in a friend and his wife, whom she much loved; and she said, 'Dear 'Thomas, may the blessing rest upon you. 'May the blessing of the Lord rest upon you 'and your house: as it did on the house of 'Obededom, where the ark of the covenant 'rested. Farewell, dear Thomas, farewell.'

One day a friend asked her how she felt; to whom she replied, 'I have been remark-ably quiet for some days past; I am some-times afraid too much so.' The friend re-turned, The great Master declared, "In my "Father's house are many mansions;" and expressed her belief that if Sarah had not

been prepared to enter into one of these glorious mansions, He would have made her sensible of it, and would not permit her to lie in that quiet easy state of mind. With this remark Sarah seemed satisfied. But her strength was much decayed; and on the 26th of the Fourth Month, which was Second-day, her breathing was become difficult and painful, and she felt great oppression of body. This, said she, is wearing work: but nevertheless she lay very still, as she had been enabled to do during the whole of her illness; and she several times desired not to be disturbed. After a hard fit of coughing with the discharge of much phlegm, which left her much spent, she said thus:—It will be right, let it be which way it may; and that is better than all the world. It seems as if it must be nearly over now: I have so little strength left. A little after, she seemed to be uttering praises, saying, How good, how good! and appeared like one engaged in sweet supplication. A friend asking her how she did, after a pause, she replied, I cannot say much: but my King reigns.

Afterwards, at three different times, being very weak, and her voice low, she was understood to say, Death-bed ;—I am passing away ;—Lord take me.

Asking what o'clock it was, and being told about one, she said, Time passes slowly. Feeling increased difficulty of breathing, pain in her stomach, and great oppression at her chest, she said, 'Give patience :' with which, that she was largely endued, those around her could witness. Again she asked the time of the day, and said, 'I love quiet-'ness, don't let me be disturbed.' Soon after, finding herself sinking fast, she seemed desirous of taking her last leave of those around her, and said, saluting them with her dying lips, 'Farewell, farewell.'

Previously to her departure her conflict of body had some time subsided ; and a few minutes before seven in the evening, in the Sixty-fourth year of her age, quietly and sweetly she ceased to breathe.

Here, Reader, pause,

Dwell on the closing scene, and taste the blessedness of the death of those who die in the Lord!

An Abstract of the Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of Wiltshire.

OUR much beloved friend Sarah Stephenson, a member of this meeting for upwards of thirty years, having been one whose example preached sweet instruction, we desire the remembrance of it may have the same influence, and be a further incitement to follow her, as she followed Christ.

She was intrusted with a gift in the ministry about the twenty-eighth year of her age. In the exercise of this weighty calling she was often engaged, under the persuasive influence of gospel-love to labour with the youth: for whose preservation in true symplicity, she felt strong and affectionate solicitude: that they might dedicate all to Him who loveth an early sacrifice, of which she was a great example. Her ministry was sound, tending much to raise into dominion the hidden life. For her path was often in the deep; and by such baptisms, she was enabled to minister to the states of the peo-

pel in the power and efficacy of the gospel. Leaning on the arm of All-sufficiency, she was made an eminently useful instrument.

To adopt the expressions of a testimony we have received from New York, we can say, 'She was peculiarly qualified to move 'with propriety in that great work of going 'from house to house: a meek and quiet 'deportment, a mind clothed with a spirit 'of love, and affectionate solicitude that all 'might be gathered within the divine inclo-'sure, being conspicuous traits in the cha-'racter and conduct of our beloved friend.'

With the afflicted, whether in body or mind, who came under her notice, she was a true sympathizer. She frequently said she wished not to out-live this tender sensibility; and she manifested it to the last. Near her close, she said, she had great satisfaction as she passed along, in having imparted of her little to those that had less.

In the sixty-third year of her age, she opened to Friends a prospect which she had long kept secret, of paying a religious visit

to Friends in America. This undertaking seemed arduous; more especially as her natural strength at that time had much declined; but as she observed, it seemed of no consequence to her where her life might close, so that when the solemn period came, she was but *where* and *what* she ought to be.

She was much satisfied with having come to that land, which [among other means] appears by a message, which, a few days before her close, she seemed desirous to be conveyed to Friends in her native land, and [she accordingly] commissioned a friend with the following: I feel a salutation of gospel love flow towards them; and have thankfully to acknowledge that I have met with those among faithful friends here, who have felt as fathers and mothers, brethren and sisters; that I find the Lord's tenderly concerned baptized travailing children, to be the same every where; and, though from my present weak state, it is rather unlikely I shall ever see them again in mutability, I am perfctly satified with being with Friends in this land; and quite easy as to the issue

of this my present indisposition: desiring the Lord's will may be done.

During her illness she said that, though it was desirable to her to go, yet if it were the divine will that she should again be raised up, and introduced to her arduous line of service,* she had felt sweet submission to it. But her work was mercifully cut short in righteousness; and the sacrifice of a willing mind accepted by Him who thus manifested his love unto the end.

She breathed her last the 26th of the Fourth Month, 1802, aged sixty-three years, a minister about thirty-six years. Her remains were interred in Friends' burial ground in Philadelphia, the 29th of the Fourth Month. As there is cause to believe she answered to the description in the inquiry, "Who is that faithful and good "servant, whom the Lord shall make ruler "over his household, to give them their "portion of meat in due season;" we have

* The reader may remember, she had begun a family-visit, in Pine-Street Meeting, Philadelphia.

[also] the consoling belief that the annexed blessing was her reward: "Blessed, I say "unto you, is that servant, whom his Lord, "when he cometh, shall find so doing."

Signed in and on behalf of the aforesaid meeting held at Melksham, the 14th of the Twelfth Month, 1802.

The Monthly Meeting of New York, the Quarterly Meetings of Westbury, and Purchase, the Southern Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia, also issued testimonies respecting this beloved friend, and the latter testimony was confirmed by the quarterly Meeting at Philadelphia. To insert all these testimonies might occasion more prolixity than service; and as the foregoing compilation is not only a tribute to the memory of Sarah Stephenson; but is principally intended to animate its readers, by her example, to love the Lord, to follow on to know him, and to press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, it may be terminated not unsuitably by an extract of

a letter to a friend in England, written by the deceased, from the city of New York.

"Although, my dear, we are very far outwardly separated, this is not able to prevent sweet union of spirit, and humble intercession for strength to advance on, towards the holy city, where the saints solemities are kept. O, the joy that will there be revealed, and for ever to remain, without alloy! That our poor feeble spirits may be daily engaged in this humble fervent travail, is the desire of my soul: that so, through adorable Mercy, we may be favoured to meet, never to part; and, with the just of all generations, [to] unite in the glorious song of Moses and [of] the Lamb!"

THE END.

PRINTED BY KIMBER, CONRAD & CO.

BOOKS & STATIONARY.

KIMBER, CONRAD, & CO.

At their Stores, No. 93, Market Street, and No. 170, South Second Street,
PHILADELPHIA.

HAVE FOR SALE,

An extensive assortment of valuable Books, the writings of Friends and of some other pious authors, among which are

	Dolls.	*Cents.*
Cruden's Concordance, calf binding	11	00
Do. sheep	10	00
Family Bibles of various kinds from 4 dolls. to	10	50
Canne's Bible, 8vo with very copious marginal references, common paper, bound in sheep -	3	
Do. lettered -	3	25
Do. fine - -	3	50
Do. do. calf -	4	00
Do. do. gilt -	4	50
Do. do. morocco	5	00

BOOKS, &c.

	Dolls.	Cents.
Barclay's Apology -	2	00
Do. fine -	2	25
Do. do. calf -	2	50
Do. gilt -	2	67
Journal of Sarah Grubb -	1	00
do. John Woolman -	1	00
do. Job Scott -	1	00
do. John Gratton -	0	75
do. John Richardson -	1	00
do. Ricket and Gough	0	87
Life of Thomas Story -	1	00
do. Margaret Lucas -	0	37
do. Samuel Neal -	0	50
do. Mary Neal -	0	37
do. Catharine Philips -	1	00
do. Robert Barclay -	0	50
do. Elizabeth Ashbridge -	0	37
do. Lady Guion -	2	00
do. Wm. Cowper, 3 vols.	2	62
do. John Howard -	0	75
Study of the Bible -	1	00
Hamilton's Letters on Education	3	00
Newton's Letters -	0	87
Thomas a Kempis -	0	75
Charlotte Richardson's Poems	0	50
Christian Character -	0	62
Clarkson on Slavery -	1	00
Clarkson's Portraiture of Quakerism. 3 vols.	5	00

N. B. In a few days will be published, a neat edition of No Cross No Crown—price 1 dollar 75 cents.

3-19

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

This book is under no circumstances to be taken from the Building

FORM 410